■ SPORTS / A27

Tiger Woods loses 'best friend and greatest role model'

■ WORLD / A24

Moussaoui gets life; taunts: 'US, you lost'

■ METRO / A21

Customs agents raid alleged source of smuggled goods in Tondo

■ BUSINESS / B1

Razon buys out Sorianos in ICTSI for P5.9B

Erap has tomb ready but has no plans of dying yet

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA HAS been busy digging his own grave, quite literally.

The ousted leader said he had prepared a tomb for himself on his 15-ha estate in Tanay, Rizal, where he is being held under house arrest while on trial for plunder, a capital offense.

"I want to see where I will be laid, my final resting place," Estrada told a group of journalists whom he invited this week to his residence at No.

ERAP/ A8

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, May 5, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 146 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Too much 'kare-kare,' 'paksiw' leave Erap with bum tummy

By Nelson F. Flores and Fe Zamora

DI NA SANAY SA MASARAP!

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A bum stomach to extend one's furlough.

A day after indulging in a feast featuring the favorite recipes of his mother, Mary Ejercito, former

TOO MUCH/ A8

Gov't to appeal 1017 ruling

Execs, cops in illegal arrests, raid face barrage of raps

It's 5% win, 95% loss for Palace

By Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THE REPORTED MALACAÑANG reaction to the Supreme Court decision on Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 was that the ruling was a "win-win" solution. This is a kind of reaction which can put win-win solutions in disrepute! The score, as I see it, is more like 5 percent win and 95 percent loss.

ANALYSIS

Whence came the 5 percent? From the first of the three Commander-in-Chief powers conferred by the Constitution, namely, that the President may call on the Armed Forces to suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion. This President Macapagal-Arroyo did.

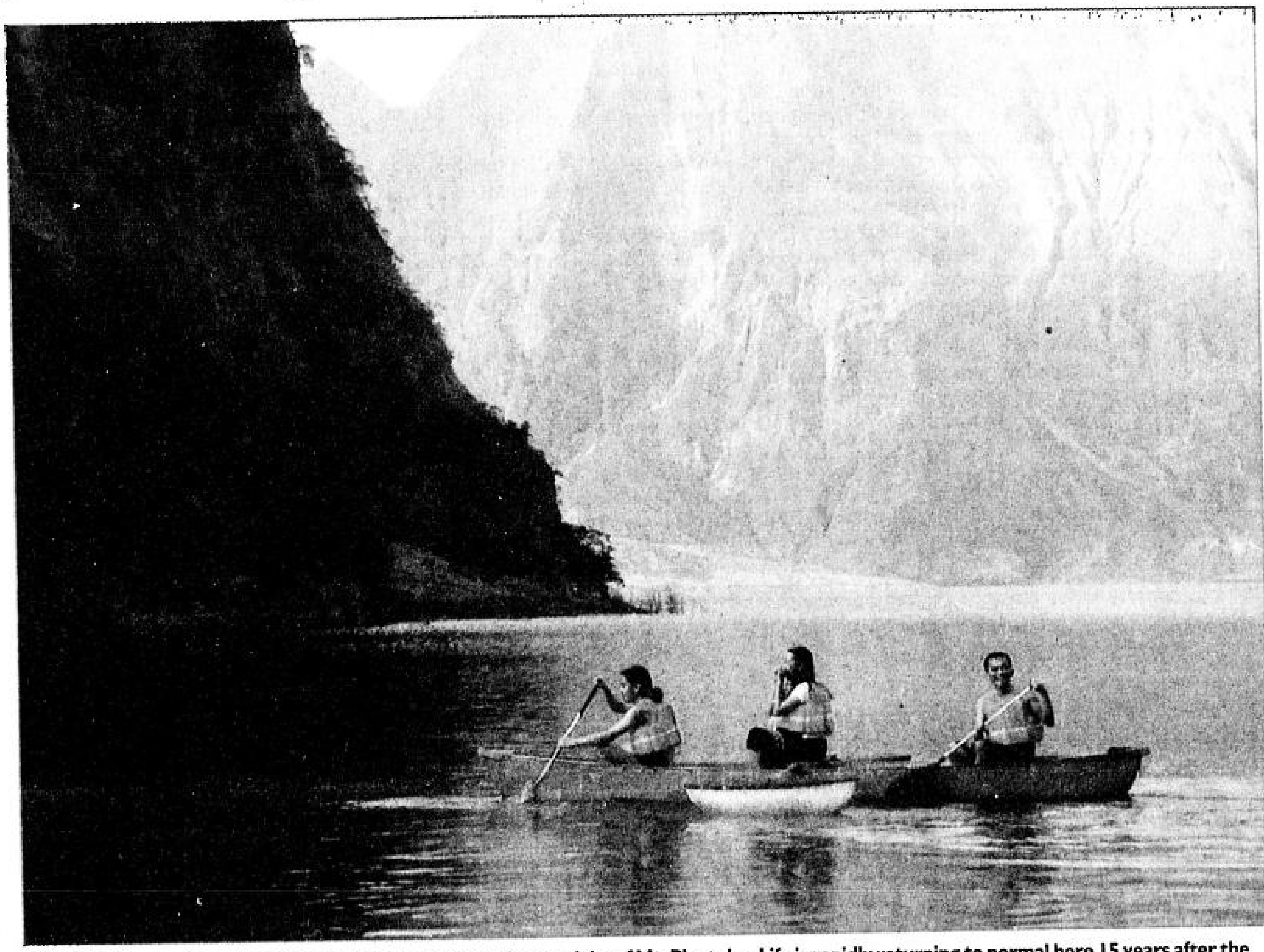
The high court could not begrudge Ms Arroyo that power given by the Constitution itself. Nor could the Supreme Court begrudge her the power to judge that rebellion was indeed afoot.

The court said: "Owing to her Office's vast intelligence network, she is in the best position to determine the actual condition of the country."

The mistake, however, was that Ms Arroyo chose the wrong instrument to accomplish what she had wanted done. The instrument she chose was her "calling-out" power, the least of her Commander-in-Chief powers under Article VII, Section 18 of the Constitution.

The court said: "Under the call-

IT'S 5% WIN/ A6



AFP/CECIL MORELLA

TOURISTS in a red kayak explore the turquoise-colored crater lake of Mt. Pinatubo. Life is rapidly returning to normal here 15 years after the volcano blasted some 20 million tons of sulfur dioxide and ash particles 20 km into the atmosphere and caused the global temperature to drop.

By Christine O. Avendaño and Armand N. Nocum

GOVERNMENT LAWyers are considering filing an appeal to the Supreme Court challenging that portion of its ruling on Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 that said President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of emergency in February did not authorize her to seize private facilities.

In a phone interview, Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura yesterday said state lawyers were to meet early next week to decide "whether or not to file a motion for reconsideration" of the court ruling issued on Wednesday.

Nachura said he would personally push for reconsideration at least of the high court ruling that PP 1017 "did not authorize President Arroyo to take over privately owned utilities or business affected with public interest without prior legislation."

He contended that the President

GOV'T/ A6

15 years on, life returns to Pinatubo

MOUNT PINATUBO—LIFE IS rapidly returning to this Central Luzon mountain 15 years after it blew its top in an eruption that killed more than 1,500 people and sent a cloud of ash into the atmosphere that cooled world temperatures for years.

At dawn, wild roosters crow lustily around Mount Pinatubo's summit, affirming the triumph of life over death in a region laid to waste by the world's second largest volcanic eruption of the 20th century.

Fireflies race for the safety of the sparse scrub and tall grass by the crater's edge, just before the first batch of tourists arrive from an uphill trek, breathless and gasping in awe at the scenery.

Among the group of trekkers is porter Randy Dumunot, who was 14 when the volcano buried his family's nipa hut and their three-hectare farm of rice and root crops in the village of Santa Juliana, Capas, Tarlac, about 30 km northeast of the volcano.

Dumunot's family rebuilt the house after the June 1991 eruption but the farm was no more, permanently covered in lahar, a fine dust of volcanic debris.

"Overnight we turned into

15 YEARS/ A9

US Senate raps GMA over media murders

WASHINGTON—THE US SENate, in an inquiry into reported murders of media people in the Philippines since 2000, urged President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration on Wednesday to swiftly bring to justice the attackers of journalists in the country.

"Ensuring that legal officials thoroughly investigate and prosecute attacks on journalists is critical as the world recognizes Press Freedom Day today," said Sen. Richard Lugar, the Republican chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, which held the inquiry.

World Press Freedom Day was

US SENATE/ A19

Gov't parceling out 1,000 ha to Luisita farmers

By Blanche S. Rivera

ONE THOUSAND HECTARES OF the vast sugar estate owned by the family of former President Corazon Aquino appear headed for distribution to farmer-beneficiaries.

On Wednesday, the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council junked with finality the motion of Hacienda Luisita Inc. to reconsider the revocation of the stock distribution option at the estate, which covers nearly 5,000 hectares.

With only one dissenting opinion from the representative of the landowners, the PARC en banc adopted the decision of its executive committee to deny the appeal of the HLI.

"We are very optimistic that starting next month, we will start distributing the landholdings," Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman said yesterday at a press conference.

He said the Department of Agrarian Reform was only awaiting the valuation of the hacienda by the Land Bank of the Philippines.

But according to HLI spokesperson Vigor Mendoza II, the battle over Hacienda Luisita will not be over until the Supreme Court decides on the corporation's petition for an injunction with a temporary restraining order.

Mendoza also questioned the timing of the PARC decision, saying it followed yet again another move by Aquino against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It has uncanny timing," he told the INQUIRER by phone yesterday.

Mendoza pointed out that the PARC decision last October to revoke the stock distribution option at the estate followed Aquino's call for the

GOV'T/ A19

Manila mass breast-feeding busts record

By Tina G. Santos

HERE'S ANOTHER ONE FOR THE BOOKS: A total of 3,738 mothers simultaneously nursed their babies for one minute yesterday in Manila to break the world record for such an activity and to make Filipinos aware of the importance of breast-feeding and its health benefits.

The attempt to break the Guinness world record was successful.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), the previous record was held by Berkeley, California, where 1,135 mothers simultaneously breast-fed their babies for a minute on Aug. 3, 2002.

Organizers of yesterday's event said the re-

MANILA/ A8

BEST FOR BABIES. A breast-feeding by 3,738 mothers in Manila on Thursday breaks the Guinness world record.

REM ZAMORA

'25 years more' is antismoking campaign's cry

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHAT CAN 15 OR 20 MORE YEARS DO FOR one's life?

A middle-aged man could watch his children grow and raise their own families. A career woman in her 40s could climb farther up the corporate ladder. A teenager could live to become, say, a doctor and be a more productive citizen in the future.

The possibilities are plentiful for smokers—if they gave up smoking. Studies show that smokers stand to lose 20-25 years of their lives on the average worldwide.

Dr. Encarnita Limpin, president of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Alliance Philippines, pegged the number of

25 YEARS/ A9

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/05/04/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

More heads to roll – PAGC

By Gil Cabacungan and Nelson Flores

SEVEN MORE GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVES FOUND BY THE PRESIdential Anti-Graft Commission to be liable for corrupt practices are expected to get the boot after President Macapagal-Arroyo upheld the agency's recommendation that they be dismissed.

This was disclosed yesterday by PAGC chair Constancia P. de Guzman after she announced the dismissal of two government executives—Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom) chair Jaime A. Dilag and National Dairy Authority (NDA) administrator Salvacion M. Bulatao—and the suspension of Toledo City Schools Division Superintendent Jose C. Cabantan.

"These are proof of positive developments in our fight against graft and corruption as we received official order from the Office of the President affirming our earlier recommendation for the dismissal of the officials for violation of anti-graft and corruption laws," De Guzman said.

She noted that Dilag and Bulatao were among 13 top officials that the PAGC recommended be punished in its report to the President covering its activities from January to April this year.

Various transgressions

De Guzman declined to name the seven other officials about to get the ax. But she identified their positions, saying they comprised an undersecretary; a director from the Office of the President; an assistant secretary; a board chair from a state corporation; a regional executive director; a regional director; and a school division superintendent.

The officials were facing various transgressions of the anti-graft and corruption laws including offenses as failure to liquidate advances representing millions of pesos; forged school transcript; and usurpation of authority.

De Guzman said she was elated by the President's support for the PAGC's efforts by upholding its findings.

She cited the case of Dilag for malversation of public funds, which emanated from an anonymous complaint forwarded by the Office of the President to PAGC three years ago.

Dilag, given a four-year term at Philracom, was fired by Malacañang for graft four months shy of the expiration of his appointment in August.

"Dilag has been getting millions worth of Philracom money corresponding to regular prizes and declaration of fees in Philracom-sponsored horse races and has caused numerous irregular disbursements from unclaimed dividends held by clubs under Philracom's regulation—Manila Jockey Club Inc. and Philippine Racing Club Inc.," De Guzman said. "Dilag was also found to have made excessive and irregular reimbursements for promotional expenses."

'Airtight case'

PAGC's findings were based on handwritten notes and letters of Dilag to MJCI and PRCI and purchases of gift checks without identifying the beneficiaries.

De Guzman said her office had taken extra time to make an "airtight" case against Dilag in line with the President's directive. "This is to ensure 100-percent affirmation of PAGC recommendations," she said.

She added that she had also asked the Commission on Audit to undertake an exhaustive audit of Philracom.

Dilag said in a press statement that he would immediately file an appeal with the Office of the President and seek a review of the PAGC's findings. He said he was surprised by the PACG's decision, which followed the dismissal by the Office of the Ombudsman last September of similar administrative and criminal complaints filed by "disgruntled horse owner William Dagan and other top Philracom officials."

Bulatao was also dismissed by Malacañang along with Dilag for hiring a public relations unit, Horse Sense Media, without a public bidding.

'Concerned employees'

Based on a complaint filed by "concerned employees of NDA," Bulatao was reported to have tapped a foreign consultant (Supasiri Phomankul of Thailand) and leading ad agency McCann Erickson without a competitive public bidding.

The PAGC ruled that the hiring of a foreign consultant and McCann were done "neither in a time of emergency" and that Bulatao "acted with manifest partiality in favor of the private parties, giving them unwarranted benefits."

Both Dilag and Bulatao will be forever barred from holding any public office and forfeit their government benefits.

The President also affirmed the PAGC's recommendation to suspend for three months without pay Cabantan for oppression, grave abuse of authority and violation of the government's code of conduct. The PAGC acted on a complaint by Babylonia Ubas, who accused Cabantan of not acting on her appraisal reports necessary for her promotion.

MANCAO

AQUINO

Arrest order out for 2 ex-cops in killing of Dacer

By Armand N. Nocum

THE MANILA REGIONAL TRIAL Court yesterday ordered the arrest of former Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) officers Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao for the killing of public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver six years ago.

In a three-page order, Judge Myra V. Garcia-Fernandez of Manila RTC Branch 18 said she had found probable cause to charge Aquino, Mancao and 18 others with the murder of Dacer and Emmanuel Corbito in 2000.

"After examining the records and supporting documents submitted by the state prosecutors of the Department of Justice, this court finds the existence of probable cause against the 20 accused charged therein. However, due to his death, accused Roberto Langcauon was discharged or excluded from the present information," Fernandez said.

Fernandez also asked the DOJ to submit proof of the death of another accused, police Senior Supt. Teofilo Viña.

A senior state prosecutor said the DOJ was studying the filing of an extradition request with the United States to bring back Aquino and Mancao who had fled to that country after the murders now that local arrest warrants will be issued for the pair.

"We will study the filing of an extradition request, notwithstanding what the US government will do. We already have a basis with the issuance of arrest warrants," Senior State Prosecutor Phillip Kimpo said in an interview.

Aquino and Mancao were arrested recently by US authorities in connection with an espionage case involving a Filipino-American intelligence expert, the White House, and former and current Philippine officials.

Aquino is presently detained in a New Jersey jail, while Mancao is out on bail as a material witness against Aquino in the espionage case.

Kimpo admitted, however, the Philippines might have to wait for Aquino's case in the US to be resolved before the Americans would consider any extradition petition.

Aquino was represented in the Manila court by lawyer Phillip Sigfrid Fortun, who filed a motion to suspend the proceedings in the Dacer-Corbito case.

"But we opposed that. Fortun said Aquino had asked him to file the motion to suspend the proceedings for gross violation of the Constitution because he (Aquino) was not accorded due process, which requires a preliminary investigation against the accused," Kimpo said.

Kimpo said Aquino could not invoke his right to a preliminary investigation because he had waived it during the preliminary investigation conducted by the DOJ.

Besides, he said, Aquino's flight "is an indication of guilt."

Judge junks amended rebellion rap sheet

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A MAKATI JUDGE YESTERDAY junked the Department of Justice's proposed amendment to a rebellion complaint that would have added 46 individuals to the two who were originally charged.

Judge Jenny Lind Aldecoa-Delorino of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 137 granted the defense's motion to strike out the amended information that would have included, among others, former Sen. Gregorio Honasan, Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison, CPP spokesperson Gregorio Rosal, National Democratic Front leader Luis Jalandoni and party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño, Joel Virador, Rafael Mariano and Liza Maza in the charge of rebellion.

The original case charged only rebel soldier 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan and Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran with rebellion in connection with the aborted Feb. 24 coup attempt against the Arroyo administration.

The proposed amendment, filed on April 21, alleged the commission of the crime of continuing rebellion beginning as far back as 1969, when the CPP was founded, and continuing to the present day.

"I did not even rule on the validity of the content of the amended information. All I said was that this is a new information, it cannot be used to supplant the original [one]," Delorino told reporters.

Delorino, however, left it to the Supreme Court to decide on the merits of the amended information.

"As far as the contents of the amended information are concerned, that's up to the Supreme Court now to rule on because there are pending petitions [before it] questioning the validity or legality of the preliminary investigation that was held, and from where this amended information arose," she said in an interview.

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Some senators may reconsider con-ass

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio

SOME SENATORS SAID YESTERDAY THEY MAY agree to a constituent assembly to consider specific constitutional amendments provided these did not include a shift to a parliamentary form of government, but others said they would have nothing to do with amendments that don't go through a constitutional convention.

The senators were reacting to calls made by El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde and retired Supreme Court Justice Vicente Mendoza on the Senate to consider a constituent assembly or con-ass as an alternative to the government-led "people's initiative" in amending the Constitution.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon rejected the calls outright.

"We have a Senate position," Biazon said in a telephone interview in which he referred to a Senate resolution expressing the chamber's preference for a constitutional convention. "And that position has not changed."

Piecemeal amendments

Sen. Richard Gordon, however, said some senators may consider turning both houses of Congress into a constituent assembly to draft specific constitutional amendments that do not involve any change in the form of government.

Gordon, chair of the Senate's committee on constitutional amendments, said the committee would recommend that the Senate and the House convene as a constituent assembly after the 2007 elections to consider piecemeal amendments to the Constitution, such as lifting term limits on national and local officials and removing restrictive economic provisions.

"I don't think the senators will agree to a parliamentary shift at all," Gordon said in a telephone interview. He said there was no need to change the presidential form of government.

"The congressmen are only titillated by a parliamentary government because they will be in control," he said.

"I think the senators are open to amending the Charter to improve the economy," Gordon said. "Right now there is the problem of the question about (President Macapagal-Arroyo's) legitimacy and it cannot be helped that people would think they are pushing Charter change to prolong her term."

He said many of his colleagues would consent to a con-ass after the 2007 elections.

Sen. Ralph Recto said he preferred a constituent assembly, but balked at the idea of sitting with members of the House who insist that both chambers should vote as one.

Senate abolition

"Just like in any sport, the rules of the game must be clear to the participants. It will be hard to play a game when one participant wants a set of rules in his favor. In the case of Cha-cha, the House insists that they can go it alone. That is unacceptable," he said.

Recto said the senators were not opposed to the parliamentary system simply because it would mean the Senate's abolition. He could very well run for parliament in his old congressional district in Batangas, Recto added.

"It's the voter's rights that we are taking away" in a parliamentary system, Recto said, explaining that citizens will lose their right to elect their head of state.

Recto said the Supreme Court rulings declaring aspects of EO 464, the CPR and PP 1017 unconstitutional were a signal to Malacañang that it would also strike down the people's initiative should the matter be brought up to the court.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said the senators will not agree to a constituent assembly if the House insists on the two chambers voting as one.

"The Senate will oppose any illegal or unconstitutional means to propose amendments to the Constitution. A con-ass wherein Congress votes together is unconstitutional and will not get the support of the senators," Pangilinan said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he would agree to a constituent assembly provided the senators were allowed to "play a decent role in the process... not as marginalized members of Congress but as senators exercising their just role in amending the Charter as defined by the Constitution or at least as what it intends to define," he said.

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Senate's retort to Palace execs: Mind your jobs

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

RECTO

"MIND YOUR JOBS."

This was administration Sen. Ralph Recto's retort to the Malacañang officials who had earlier told the senators to mind their manners when dealing with executive branch officials who fail to show up at committee hearings.

"The Palace misses the point," said Recto yesterday in an interview. "My committee has never been involved in the investigation of political controversies. This committee is tackling Malacañang initiatives so I don't know why it is making those statements."

Recto, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, said the officials were properly invited, not to be rudely treated, but to get their input on economic measures being pushed by Malacañang itself.

"They should mind their jobs. They should be prepared to deliberate with us on these measures so we can have meaningful legislation and come up with laws that they can implement. What's the point of passing laws they cannot implement?" Recto said.

Courtesy

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye had earlier asked the senators "to observe inter-branch courtesy and refrain from harsh tongues that tend to place the executive [branch] in a bad light."

This after Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Trade Secretary Peter Favila and Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag snubbed last Monday's hearing of Recto's committee, sending word they were either abroad or in other meetings.

The hearing was called to deliberate measures intended to maximize government revenues, curb smuggling and reduce the withholding tax on individual taxpayers. The latter recommendation was made by President Macapagal-Arroyo to Congress on Labor Day as one measure that could alleviate the plight of workers at this time of economic hardship.

Recto had earlier said the executive branch officials' attendance would have been a test of Malacañang's compliance with the recent Supreme Court ruling declaring portions of Executive Order No. 464 unconstitutional and upholding the right of Congress to obtain the testimony of officials in inquiries in aid of legislation.

The EO barred government, military and police officials from appearing at congressional hearings without the President's approval.

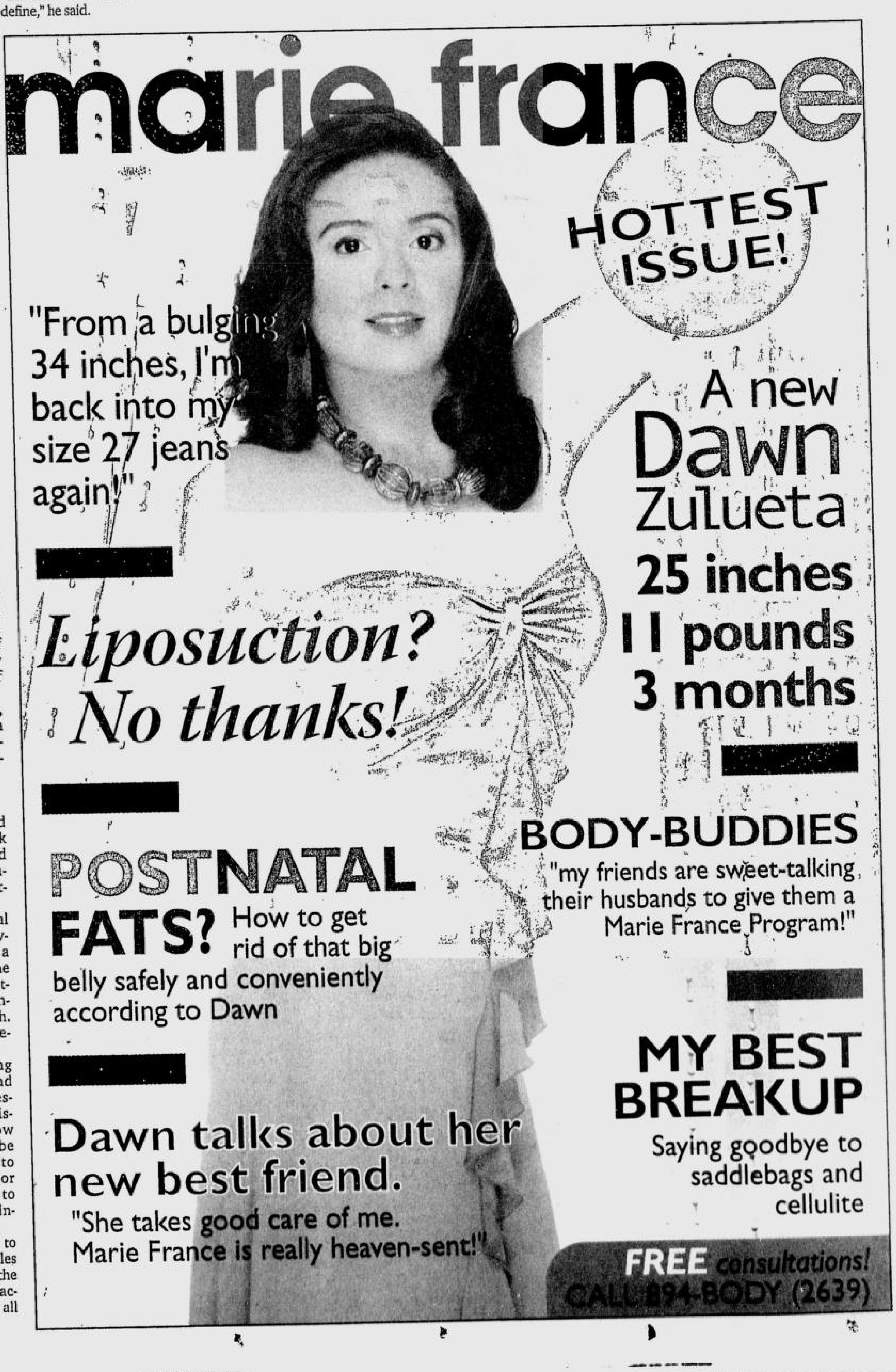
Fair play

For its part, Malacañang said yesterday it was not out to pick a fight with the Senate nor did it want administration executives to be given special treatment.

"All we want is fair play, mutual respect and cooperation in serving the people," Bunye said in a statement. "It has never been the intent of the executive department to wage institutional conflict with the legislative branch. The executive does not need special treatment."

Malacañang is also seeking the establishment of ground rules to govern the congressional appearance of administration officials, including how much lead time they should be given from the invitation to their appearance, the prior submission of the questions to be asked, and limiting the inquiry to the subject at hand.

"We welcome any initiative to lay down the proper ground rules which would fully respect the separation of powers... and accord respect and dignity to all parties," Bunye said.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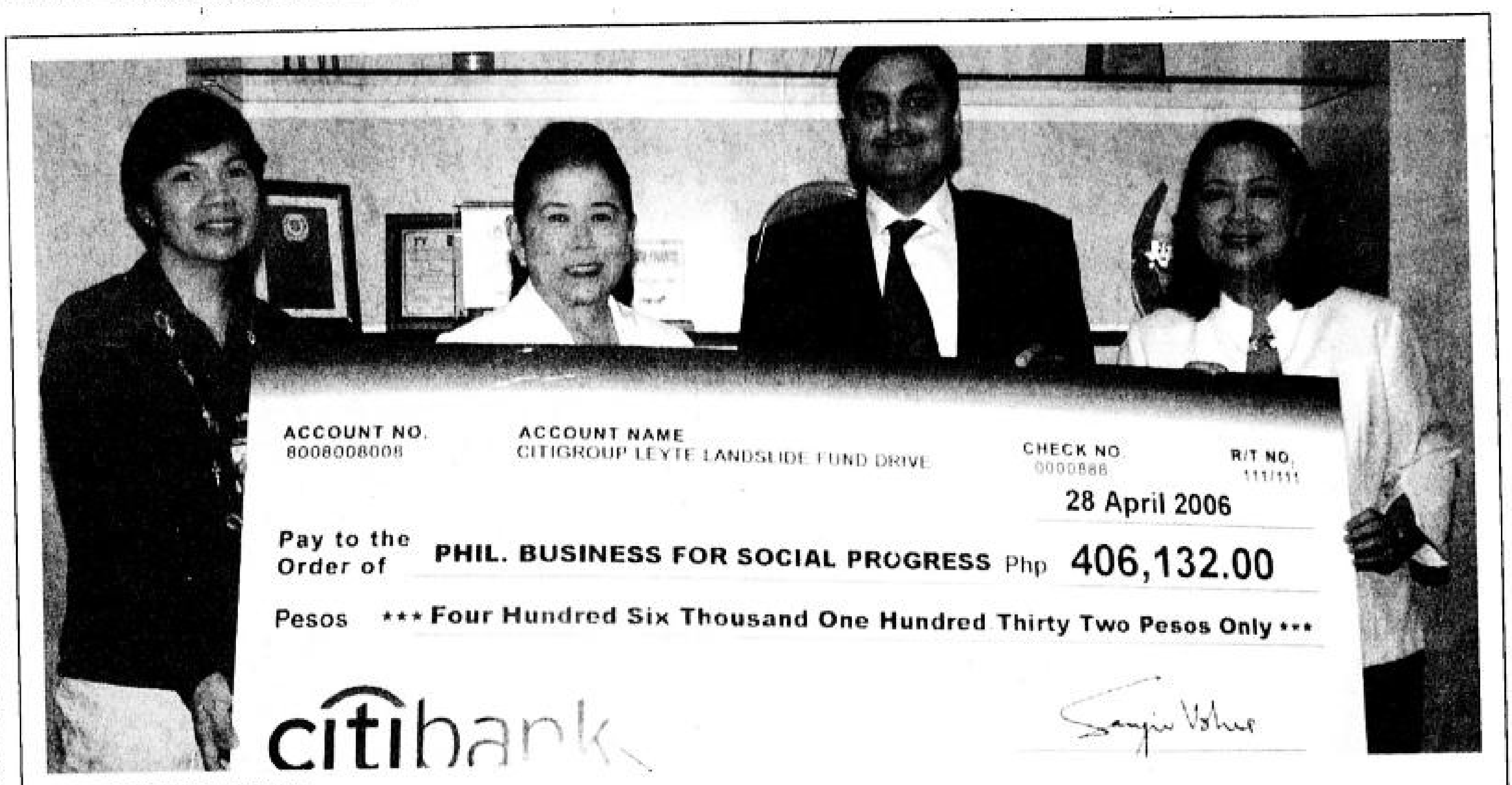
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FOR LEYTE REHAB

Marixi Prieto, Philippine Daily Inquirer and trustee of the Philippine Business for Social Progress, (PBSP), receives from Citigroup country officer Sanjiv Vohra a huge check for P406,132 representing donations from employees for the Southern Leyte rehabilitation program. Also on hand are PBSP membership development manager Vicky Co (left) and Lillibeth Fajardo, Citibank corporate affairs director. ROMY HOMILLADA

AFP probes attack on Chinese fishing boat

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES said yesterday it has launched an investigation into an apparent pirate attack on a Chinese fishing vessel that left four crewmen dead in disputed waters in the South China Sea.

Chinese state media said last week's attack on the Jinghai 03012 near the Spratly Islands could have involved Filipinos.

Rear Adm. Tirso Danga, commander of the AFP Western Command, has already visited the area and is expected to submit a report soon, military spokesman Col. Tristran Kison said.

"It appeared to be a pirate attack but the investigation is still ongoing," Kison told reporters.

The Chinese government had asked the Philippine foreign office to investigate the incident.

Filipino officials and analysts have also cautioned both parties against linking the attack to the territorial dispute in the Spratlys, a chain of more than 100 small islands and reefs believed to sit atop vast mineral deposits.

They are claimed partially or entirely by Brunei, China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines.

All claimants are governed by a code of conduct to maintain the status quo and avoid actions that could incite armed confrontation in the area. *AFP*

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PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 14, s-2006

TO : ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Amendment to PhilHealth Circular No. 26 of 2003: PhilHealth Coverage of Avian Influenza and Influenza Pandemic

Pursuant to PhilHealth Board Resolution No. 880, s-2006, PhilHealth benefit for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) is expanded to include coverage of avian influenza and influenza pandemic. The following rules apply to all claims for SARS, avian influenza and influenza pandemic:

I. Coverage

A. Avian Influenza/Influenza Pandemic

1. Avian Influenza (AI) or "bird flu" is a contagious disease normally infecting animals that may cause serious illness when transmitted to humans. Influenza pandemic (IP) occurs when a new influenza A virus appears in the human population and then spreads easily from person to person worldwide.
2. This benefit covers only avian influenza or influenza pandemic caused by subtypes of avian influenza A virus recognized by the Department of Health (DOH) as risks to human health and capable of creating influenza pandemic. This includes:
   a. Avian influenza A virus H5N1; or
   b. New subtypes of Avian influenza A virus that have never circulated among humans; &
   c. Other subtypes of Avian influenza A virus that have not circulated among humans for a long time.
3. Excluded from this benefit are the following:
   a. Influenza-like illnesses (ILI) and;
   b. Other seasonal outbreaks of influenza caused by established flu viruses (e.g., H1N1, HIN2 and H3N2) that occur widely in humans.

These cases of influenza are covered by the regular hospitalization benefits of PhilHealth.

B. Systematic Acute Respiratory Syndrome

1. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) is a respiratory viral infection caused by a coronavirus - SARS CoV.
2. This benefit covers only probable and confirmed cases of SARS identified by DOH.
3. Patients classified only as SARS suspect cases are not covered by this benefit. Moreover, cases of acute respiratory illness where an alternative diagnosis can fully explain the illness are excluded from this benefit.

II. Benefit

1. This benefit may be availed of by qualified PhilHealth members (including Overseas Workers Program) and dependents identified by DOH as cases of SARS or avian influenza/pandemic influenza. For confinements abroad, it must be certified by the attending physician.
2. Except for confinements abroad, patients availing this benefit must be admitted in a DOH-designated SARS or AI/IP hospital.
3. Hospitalization benefits for members and dependents admitted in a DOH-designated SARS or AI/IP hospital is set at 50,000 pesos per case.
4. Hospitalization benefits for health care workers (HCW's) in DOH-designated SARS or AI/IP hospitals is set at P100,000 pesos per case provided that:
   a. HCW contracted the disease while caring for a SARS or AI/IP patient (person-to-person transmission)
   b. HCW renders service in a DOH-designated hospital for SARS or AI/IP
   c. DOH attests that the HCW contracted the disease while performing his official duties in a DOH-designated hospital for SARS or AI/IP
   d. HCW is a qualified member of the National Health Insurance Program
5. The SARS or Avian Influenza/Influenza Pandemic Benefit covers payment for the following:
   a. Room and board
   b. Drugs and medicines
   c. Radiographic services and laboratory examinations
   d. Supplies
   e. Transfer services from referring hospital to DOH-designated hospital
   f. Use of the operating room complex
   g. Professional fees
   h. Other medically necessary care
6. Professional fees are incorporated in the benefit. Computation is based on the table below and total doctors' PF is subtracted from the total benefit package.

SERVICE	PROFESSIONAL FEE	MAXIMUM BENEFIT
Medical management:		
a. General Practitioner	150 pesos/day	900 pesos
b. Specialist	250 pesos/day	2,500 pesos
Surgical management:		
a. Surgeon	40 pesos/RVU	16,000 pesos
b. Anesthesiologist	30% surgeon's fee	5,000 pesos

Example:

	BENEFIT
Case Rate	50,000 pesos
a. Professional Fee	2,500 pesos - pay to doctor
b. Hospital Charges	47,500 pesos - pay to hospital

7. The rule on single period of confinement and 45-day allowance per year applies.

III. Claims Filing

1. The following are required for claims processing:
   a. PhilHealth Form 1 - duly accomplished by member and employer (if employed)
   b. PhilHealth Form 2 - duly accomplished by hospital representative
   c. List of DOH designated SARS or AI/IP hospitals as proof facility designation
   d. Certification from DOH for HCW patients
   e. Certification from attending physician for confinement abroad
   f. Other supporting documents as required by PhilHealth Circular No. 18 series of 2003
2. Itemization of Parts III and IV of Claims Form 2 is not required provided that item 12 in Part I is duly accomplished (declaration of actual charges).
3. PhilHealth benefit for SARS, avian influenza, and influenza pandemic shall be paid directly to DOH-designated hospitals and accredited doctors.
4. All claims applications shall be filed within 60 days from date of discharge of patient.
5. In cases where members are required by hospitals to buy drugs, medicines and supplies or requested to seek out other necessary services (laboratory procedures) from other facilities, reimbursement to members is allowed, provided that:
   a. Hospital cannot provide the necessary items and services covered by the benefit.
   b. These items and services are used during confinement.
   c. Official receipts and/or other documents of purchases are submitted.
   d. The reimbursements to members depend on the actual cost of the receipts submitted but not more than the difference between the maximum benefit and the hospital reimbursement.
   e. The hospital acknowledges that the cost of benefits and services it provided is less than the maximum benefit by appropriately filling-up item 12 of Part 1 of Form 2.

Example:

	BENEFIT
Case Rate	50,000 pesos
a. Professional Fee	2,500 pesos - pay to doctor
b. Hospital Charges	42,500 pesos - pay to hospital
c. Official receipts - total 12,000 pesos	5,000 pesos - pay to member

6. Benefit payment shall not exceed the maximum benefit, or the actual charges/benefit deducted from the patient whichever is the lowest.

IV. Eligibility Requirements

1. Current eligibility rules apply for the availment of this benefit.
2. Employed and IPP members should have at least three (3) months of contributions within the immediate six (6) months prior to the month of admission.
3. Sponsored members may avail of this benefit within the validity period stated in their PhilHealth Membership Identification Card or Certificate of Eligibility (Form CE1) as per PhilHealth Circular No. 3 s.2005.
4. OWP members or their dependents may avail of this benefit within the validity period stated in their Medicare Eligibility Certificate (MEC), PhilHealth Certificate of Eligibility (PCE) or enhanced Member's Data Record (MDR).

C. Effectivity

This Circular shall take effect for all claims with discharge dates starting June 1, 2006.

All other rules and guidelines not contrary to this circular shall remain in full force and effect.

(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO, CESO III
Acting President and CEO

Date Signed: April 18, 2006

Malaysia to tackle Filipino illegals in Sabah

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia announced yesterday a new cabinet-level committee to tackle the influx of Filipino immigrants illegally entering eastern Sabah state on Borneo island.

Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak said the issue of illegal migrants and stateless people in Sabah was a longstanding problem that had to be resolved.

"In Sabah, the problem is rather complex. Some of these immigrants, when they come into our country, they destroy all their documents," he was quoted as saying by the state Bernama news agency.

Filipino refugees

"When we want to send them back, their country of origin will not accept them, but we know they should be returned to their own country. So this is a big problem," said Najib, who will chair the committee.

Up to half a million Filipinos live in Malaysia, many of them families of refugees who fled a separatist rebellion in the Mindanao in the 1970s.

The Philippine government has estimated that up to 200,000 are living in Malaysia illegally, mostly in Sabah, which lies close to the southern Philippines and shares cultural ties.

Difficult situation

Malaysia and the Philippines have long been in discussions to resolve the illegal immigration issue and Najib admitted the situation would be difficult to resolve.

"We will do our best but it is not going to be easy because they are intertwined with the local community," he said. *AFP*

Montreal racism row isolated, says Canadian embassy

By Volt Contreras

THE CANADIAN EMBASSY DEscribed as "an atypical and isolated incident" the case of a Filipino student in Montreal who was reportedly punished by his teacher for using a spoon and fork instead of eating with one utensil "the Canadian way. The incident has been denounced as racist by the boy's compatriots, the Philippine Embassy, as well as by a Canadian anti-racism group.

Steven Rheault-Kihara, the mission's political and economic counselor, declined to give further comment, saying the embassy knew nothing more of the incident than what the media had reported.

But the diplomat noted "it is interesting that this came up now because (Canadian Ambassador to Manila Peter Sutherland) has just been to Canada" where he met with various Filipino groups from April 23 to May 1.

"The issue never came up" in those encounters between Sutherland and the Filipinos based in Ottawa, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Toronto, he said in a phone interview yesterday.

"In fact, the ambassador recognized the Filipino-Canadian community for its involvement in the social and political life of Canada," he added.

The boy's teacher reportedly "disciplined" the Filipino second grader more than 10 times this year for eating with a spoon and fork at lunch break. As punishment, he was moved to another table to eat by himself.

His family learned of his ordeal on April 11 when, at the kitchen table, he wouldn't touch his dinner because "my teacher is telling me that eating with a spoon and fork is yucky and disgusting."

His mother lodged a complaint with the school board in Roxboro last April 13, according to newspaper and embassy reports cited Wednesday by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Filipino mother, a contract worker who eventually earned immigrant status in Montreal in 1999, raised the matter with the principal but was reportedly told by that official that her son was disciplined for "eating like a pig."

The principal was further quoted as telling the mother "to eat the way Canadians eat" because she is in Canada.

Rheault-Kihara maintained that his government looks up to the Filipino-Canadian community as "very much contributing to the success of Canadian multiculturalism."

He said the Canadian government's relations with this "vibrant" ethnic group remain "nothing short of excellent."

There are currently around 400,000 Canadians with Filipino origins in his country, he noted.

But the DFA yesterday continued showing its displeasure over the incident by releasing a statement from Philippine Ambassador to Ottawa Jose Brillantes.

The Filipino envoy said his post "fully supports the actions" being taken by the Filipino community in Montreal, Quebec, who were outraged by the case.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, May 5, 2006
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 9:1-20
Gospel: John 6:52-59

The Jews were arguing among themselves, "How can this man give us flesh to eat?" So Jesus replied, "Truly, I say to you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood live with eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.

"My flesh is really food and my blood is drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood, live in me and I in them. Just as the Father, who is life, sent me and I have life from the Father, so whoever eats me will have life from me. This is the bread which came from heaven; unlike that of your ancestors, who ate and later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

Jesus spoke in this way in Capernaum when he taught them in the synagogue.

Commentary

The readings from Acts and John always go together in this season. The preaching of the word of Jesus in the Scripture and the breaking of the bread of life are one and the same thing meant to be whole, unbroken, and coming together in the lived life of believers. The only Body of Christ that Saul meets is the Church, the community, the sacrament of the Risen Lord, and they teach him how to live—those he persecuted, Stephen, Ananias, and others. We need the word of the Scripture to teach us with others what the body and blood of Jesus, in word and eucharist, means for our daily lives. We feed on God so that others might feed on us.

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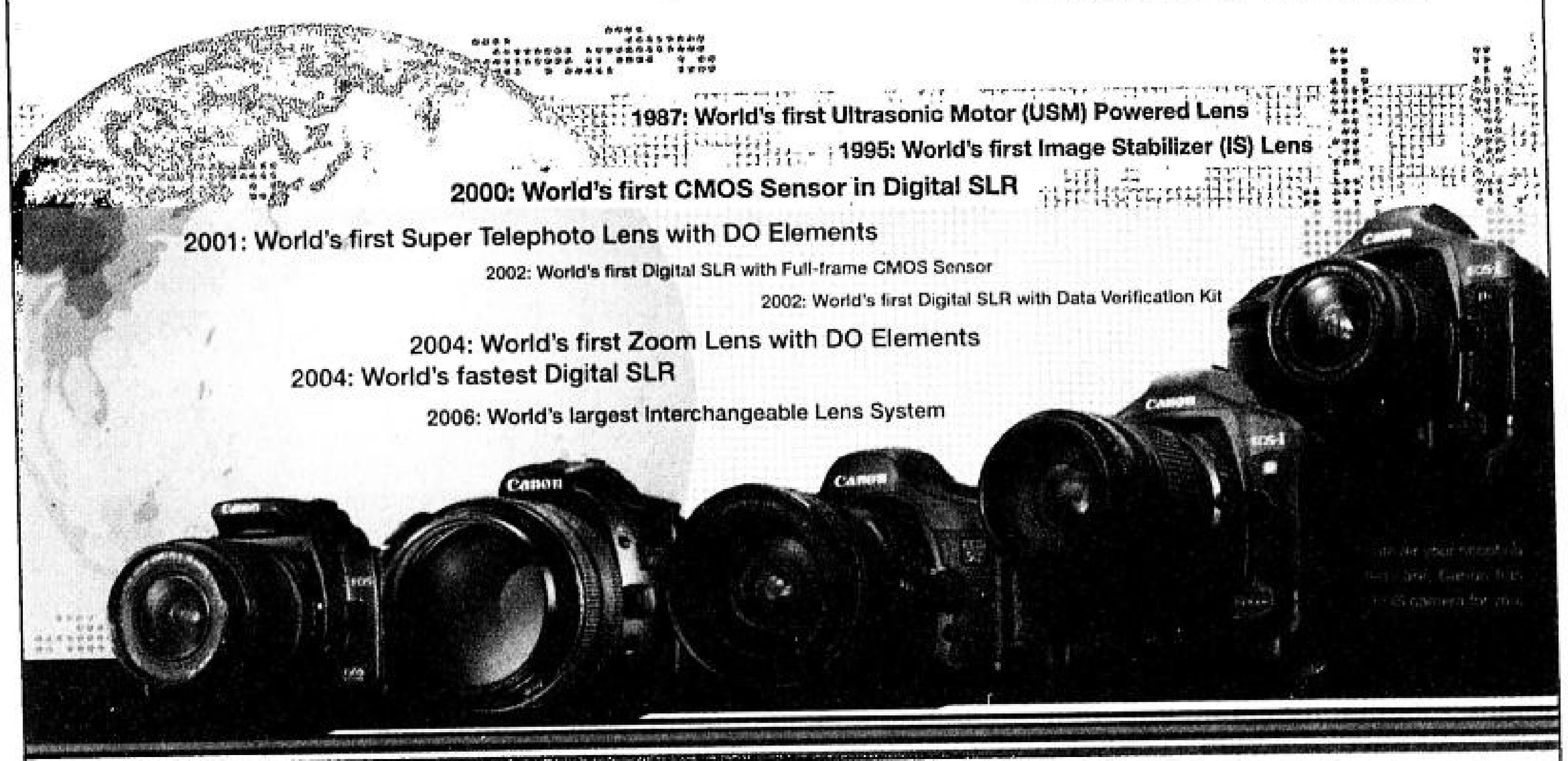
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GMA foes elated, eye impeachment

By Michael Lim Ubac, Norman Bordadora and Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO's opponents are gearing up to revive impeachment complaint against her, bouyed by three successive setbacks on key constitutional issues before the Supreme Court.

"The Palace is not above the law," said Rep. Rolex Suplico of Iloilo. "It should now prepare for the forthcoming impeachment of the President upon the expiration of the one-year ban on June 26, 2006."

Suplico said Wednesday's court ruling on Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 was a "strike-out for the Palace," using a baseball term, coming as it did after Supreme Court decisions that declared unconstitutional a gag order under Executive Order No. 464 and the calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy that allowed police to break up demonstrations.

"I suggest that the Palace show the door to whoever advised the President. Or better still, the Palace should now seriously consider taking the bat and using it on an unnamed presidential adviser," said Suplico.

Culpable violation

Former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman, a victim of warrantless arrest, said: "This is the third time that the Supreme Court declared some of Malacañang's moves unconstitutional. This is a ground for impeachment. What are we waiting for?" Soliman was referring to the impeachable offense of culpable violation of the Constitution.

Last year, Ms Arroyo's allies in the House killed an impeachment attempt against her over allegations she had rigged the 2004 election. She has denied any wrongdoing.

Lawyer Ibarra Gutierrez III, a law professor at the University of the Philippines, agreed with Soliman.

"For it to be impeachable, the act should be directly attributable to the President," Gutierrez said. Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao are Ms Arroyo's alter egos, Gutierrez said.

He said that Defensor, Ermita and Lomibao all made pronouncements on some personalities to be arrested even without warrants in connection with the emergency and protest rallies.

Traceable to GMA

"Their action is a violation of the Constitution and is directly traceable to the President unless she draws the line, says that she had nothing to do with their pronouncements and initiates their prosecution," Gutierrez said.

He said that with the Supreme Court ruling that the acts committed in the name of Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 had no basis under the law, there was a violation on the part of Ms Arroyo.

"She tacitly approved these actions and that is a culpable violation of the Constitution," Gutierrez said.

Lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno, chair of the Free Legal Assistance Group, welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court on PP 1017.

"It has to be established that the orders really came from her (Ms Arroyo)," Diokno said.

Diokno added that it would have been much better if the Supreme Court's decision had deemed the proclamation itself unconstitutional.

Critics warned

Members of the House majority urged administration critics to respect the Supreme Court decision on PP 1017 and not use it to sow further "destabilization" against the government.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Rep. Salacnib Baterina (Lakas, Ilocos Sur) said government critics must respect the high court's decision and not call it "half-cooked" because that would be an affront to the tribunal.

Nograles said antigovernment groups also could not circumvent the court's ruling "to instigate chaos and mob rule."

"They must be guided accordingly. The Supreme Court ruled the President is constitutionally empowered to declare a national emergency. Incorrect implementation done in indecent haste, however, has caused legal infirmities as it has violated other protected human rights of individuals and the media," he said.

Baterina said the decision in effect said that Ms Arroyo could still use her powers to crush destabilization threats but that this should be done without resorting to legal "short- cuts."

"This doesn't give the anti-Arroyo forces the license to push their luck and continue plotting to topple the goverment. The government still has the legal means to protect itself from political attacks," he said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño said the Supreme Court just gave the impending impeachment of the President "another boost" since it was the third time in a row that the tribunal declared a Palace directive as unconstitutional.

Casiño also said Malacañang's spin doctors, the military and police should not to engage in "doubletalk or Newspeak" by insisting that they did nothing wrong and that the orders and proclamations were necessary.

"Otherwise, GMA may be liable for another offense: Insisting that her acts were constitutional after the Supreme Court already declared it otherwise," Casiño said.

"It is the height of arrogance and self-delusion for Malacañang to interpret the decision on CPR and PP 1017 as victories for the Arroyo regime. In case the President's apologists didn't notice, the SC ruled that she violated the Constitution at least three times," he said.

Gov't to appeal 1017 ruling

From page A1

was empowered to do this during an emergency. He cited an opinion by Fr. Joaquin Bernas, one of the framers of the 1987 Constitution, that "the President could direct such in behalf of the State without need of authority from Congress."

Voting 11-3, the high tribunal on Wednesday upheld Ms Arroyo's power to call on the Armed Forces to suppress lawless violence but ruled illegal a clause in the proclamation giving herself authority to issue edicts similar to the decree-making powers the dictator Ferdinand Marcos had exercised under his martial law declaration in 1972.

The court also declared unconstitutional the arrest of protesters, the forcible breakup of rallies and the raid on an opposition newspaper that were carried out in accordance with Ms Arroyo's proclamation of a state of national emergency.

The President, battling a crisis of legitimacy in the face of allegations she stole the May 2004 election, issued PP 1017 to deal with a "cabal" of rogue soldiers, communist guerrillas, opposition politicians and businessmen allegedly seeking to unseat her.

State lawyers have urged the court to dismiss the challenge mounted against PP 1017 spearheaded by senators, pointing out that the issue had become moot after Ms Arroyo lifted the proclamation a week later.

Other illegal acts

Nachura said that administration lawyers would still discuss the high court decision that said PP 1017 did not justify warrantless arrests and the breakup of rallies, among other things.

The Solicitor General stressed that when PP 1017 was issued, he had repeatedly said in media interviews that the proclamation did not authorize warrantless arrests.

Supreme Court spokesperson Ismael Khan Jr. said that he expected lawsuits against the Philippine National Police as a result of its actions during the weeklong emergency.

"Those who feel aggrieved or those who feel they have been wronged can use the Supreme Court decision to bring to court persons in authority," Khan told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

"They can go to court and say 'I am one of those clubbed under PP 1017,'" he said.

These cases would be treated separately from those filed by University of the Philippines professor Randy David, who was arrested during a rally, and publisher Ninez Cacho-Olivares, whose Daily Tribune was raided, Khan said.

DOJ lawyers ready

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said his department was prepared to meet these criminal, civil and administrative cases against government personnel.

"You cannot stop them from filing the case. In fact, Cacho-Olivares has already announced (that she would do so). I think that it's all right, it's their right," he said.

But Gonzalez raised doubts that these cases would prosper, saying the police acted in good faith.

"I don't see anything done there that was done in bad faith. The policemen who acted at that time were following lawful orders. There was no declaration of the illegality of PP 1017 at the that time. I believe all their actions are legal," he said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo pauses during a roundtable discussion in Malacañang on the condonation of penalties and surcharges on GSIS and SSS borrowers.

LYN RILLON

No effect on Batasan 6

As for Olivares, the justice secretary said the case of "inciting to sedition" filed against her would be prosecuted.

Although the monitoring of the media would no longer continue, Gonzalez said some journalists would remain under watch because the charge of inciting to sedition, like libel, "can happen anytime."

As for the so-called "Batasan 6," Gonzalez said the court's decision on PP 1017 did not change the situation for them because their alleged rebellious acts were prior to the issuance of the proclamation.

Thus, he said, the congressmen led by party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, who had taken refuge at the House of Representatives, could be arrested when they leave the building.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said the Supreme Court ruling would only be a "toothless tiger" if the Arroyo administration's political harassment and suppression of its critics continued.

From the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City where he is detained on humanitarian grounds, the ailing Beltran issued a statement expressing his hope that "the ruling would herald the reversal of the abominations associated with the imposition of PP 1017."

The 73-year-old Beltran said the ruling affirmed "what we have been saying right from the start: That President Arroyo is a wannabe dictator who is trying to put in place mechanisms for creeping martial law."

Beltran said he hoped that the courts would eventually rule that his arrest was illegal.

Arrests 'legal'

Director Vidal Querol, Metro Manila police chief, said that the warrantless arrests of David and Akbayan president Rodolfo Llamas on Feb. 24, the day Ms Arroyo declared the emergency, were legal.

Querol said that PP 1017, being the "flavor of the month," made everybody think that the police were advancing on the protesters solely on the basis of the proclamation.

He said the police were acting under Batas Pambansa Bilang 880, the law on demonstrations, which the court had earlier said was legal.

"To say that (they) were arrested solely on the basis of PP 1017 is a bit contentious and argumentative," Querol told the INQUIRER yesterday.

He noted that David and Llamas were leading a protest rally without securing a permit.

Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, PNP spokesperson, also insisted that police actions during the emergency were guided by General Orders No. 5 and 6 which Ms Arroyo issued with PP 1017.

Just following

"Those things were not done by the PNP to its own liking. We were just following the proclamation," said Pagdilao in a phone interview from Zamboanga City, where he was traveling with PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao.

Vice President Noli de Castro and former Sen. Loren Legarda, both former broadcast journalists, issued separate statements welcoming the court decision.

Legarda said the "ruling was a vindication of the people's right to self expression, including the conduct of peaceful protest rallies."

She said it also "affirmed the mandate of media to inform the people ... without fear of retribution and harassment from government."

De Castro said: "We must now observe the parameters laid down by the Supreme Court so that the powers of government can be exercised without violating the constitutional rights of the people." *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Jocelyn R. Uy, Philip C. Tubeza, Nancy C. Carvajal and Cynthia D. Balana*

It's 5% win, 95% loss for Palace

From page A1

ing-out power, the President may summon the Armed Forces to aid him in suppressing lawless violence, invasion and rebellion. This involves ordinary police action. For this reason, a President must be careful in the exercise of his powers. He cannot invoke a greater power when he wishes to act under a lesser power."

Lifted from Marcos edict

What did Ms Arroyo want to do with this lesser power? She ordered the military "to enforce obedience to all the laws and to all decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction."

It did not escape the court's notice that the language of Ms Arroyo's proclamation had lifted a line from President Ferdinand Marcos' Proclamation No. 1081 declaring martial law and ordering the military "to enforce obedience to all the laws and decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction."

The court ruled that under PP 1017, Ms Arroyo had no authority to promulgate decrees. "To be sure, neither martial law nor a state of rebellion nor a state of emergency can justify President Arroyo's exercise of legislative power by issuing decrees ... She can only order the military, under PP 1017, to enforce laws pertinent to its duty to suppress lawless violence."

Through PP 1017, Ms Arroyo also declared "a state of national emergency." What effect could this declaration have?

The court observed: "The import of this provision is that President Arroyo, during the state of national emergency under PP 1017, can call the military ... to act pursuant to the provision of Section 17, Article XII" which allows the takeover of public utilities or business affected with public interest.

Could Ms Arroyo do that? She could not.

And the court made a distinction between declaring a state of emergency on the one hand and exercising emergency powers on the other.

Ms Arroyo could declare a state of emergency, which after all is nothing more than a description of a situation and does not give her additional powers. But to exercise emergency powers, she needed authorization from Congress—which she did not have.

This interpretation of Article XII, Section 17 is contrary to what I had held earlier. However, when former Justice Isagani Cruz disagreed with me on this, I reviewed my premises.

I now agree that, considering the martial provenance of this provision, the President cannot exercise this power without authorization from Congress; or, unless there has been a declaration of martial law.

They thought wrong

Having declared a state of emergency, however, Ms Arroyo thought, or her subordinates thought, that they could do a lot of things they could not do in normal times.

The court was categorical: "On the basis of the relevant and uncontested facts narrated earlier, it is also pristine clear that (1) the warrantless arrest of petitioners Randolf S. David and Ronald Llamas; (2) the dispersal of the rallies and warrantless arrest of the KMU and NAFLU-KMU members; (3) the imposition of standards on media or any prior restraint on the press; and (4) the warrantless search of the Tribune offices and the whimsical seizures of some articles for publication and other materials, are not authorized by the Constitution, the law and jurisprudence. Not even by the valid provisions of PP 1017 and GO (General Order) No. 5."

Briefly, then, if the Supreme Court decision were a school grading sheet, out of a possible 100 percent, the Arroyo administration scored 5 percent.

Will they ever learn? Not if they do not want to. And it is just too bad that the decision was marred by a not too convincing dissenting opinion.

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LOPEZ as Maximo Oliveros: Going places

‘Maximo’ makes it to Sydney Opera House

By Volt Contreras

THE WIDELY-ACCLAIMED FILIPINO FILM “Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros (The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros)” is to premiere in Australia next week, and the screening will be held in that country’s world-famous cultural venue—the Sydney Opera House.

It will be the “centerpiece film,” slated May 12 and 13, in connection with The Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival, according to Ma. Theresa Lazaro, the Philippines’ consul general in Sydney.

The film’s debut Down Under “has again put the Philippines in the cultural spotlight and affirms the Filipino filmmakers’ capability of producing world-class films that audiences throughout the world can relate to,” Lazaro said in a statement.

That it will be shown at the Sydney Opera House, she noted, “attests to the distinguished status that it has received from the Australian organizers, a historic feat unto itself for a Filipino film.”

Now in its sixth year, “Message Sticks” is a three-day event showcasing the latest indigenous films from Australia and from around the world. Entries this year come from seven countries, including the Philippines.

“Maximo” tells the story a gay 12-year-old who befriends a young policeman, thus undermining his devotion to his family of petty criminals.

The film stars Nathan Lopez as Maximo and is directed by the renowned Filipino theater artist-director, filmmaker and indigenous rights advocate Aureus Solito.

Maximo joins two other Filipino-directed films, “Masahista” and “Two Nights,” to be screened in Sydney’s cultural belt this year.

Betoy Johnson, PDI photog; 71

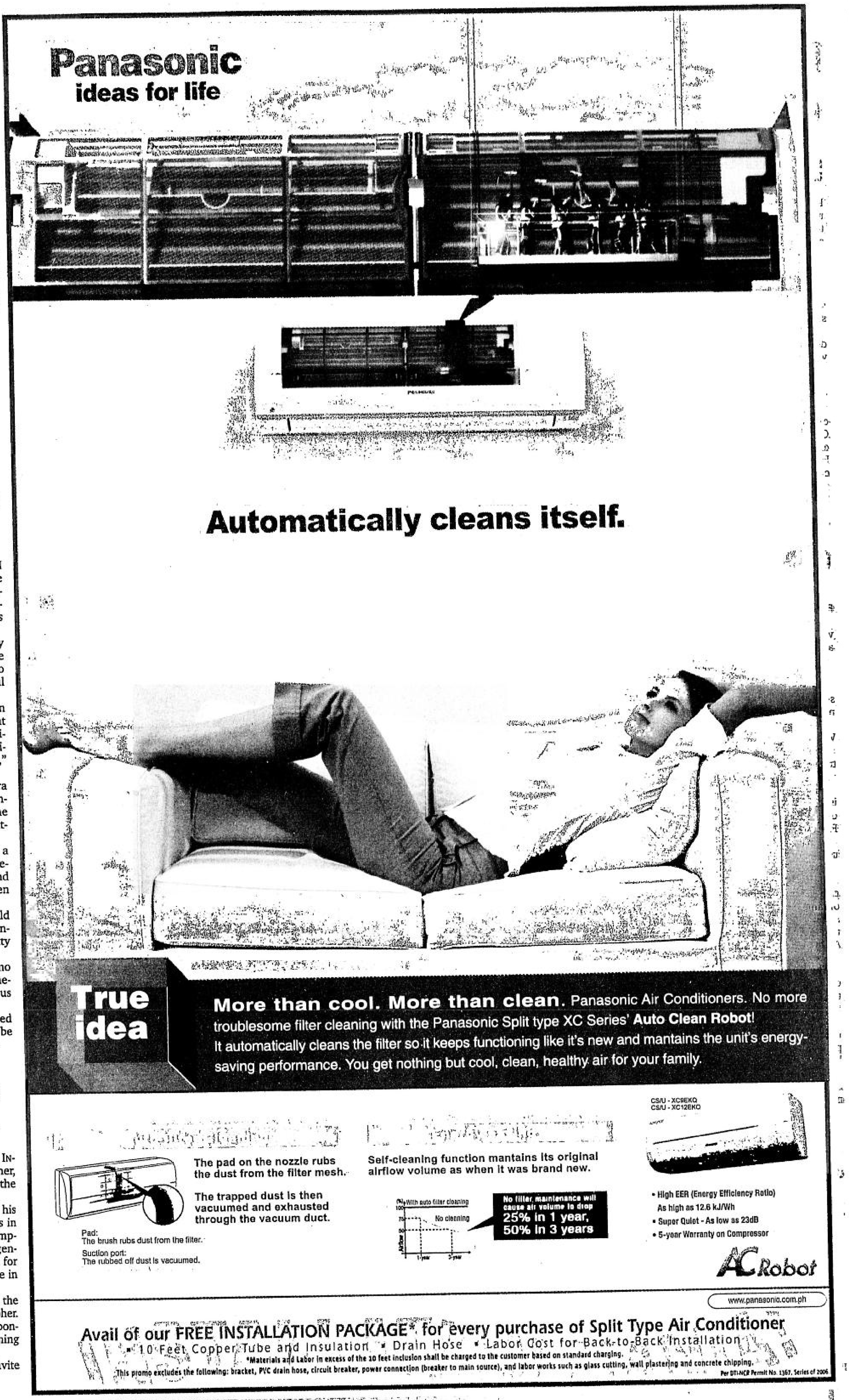
JOHNSON

BETOY JOHNSON, INQUIRER photographer, died on May 1 at the age of 71.

Johnson started his career in the 1960s in the J. Walter Thompson Advertising agency. He also worked for the NOW Magazine in the early 1970s.

He later joined the now defunct Newsday as staff photographer. He worked for one year as a photo correspondent for the INQUIRER in 1992 before becoming a full-time photographer.

His wake is being held in his Bacoor, Cavite residence. He is survived by 12 children.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Too much 'kare-kare,' 'paksiw' leave Erap with bum tummy

From page A1

President Joseph Estrada was taken to the San Juan Medical Center (SJMC) suffering from diarrhea and vomiting.

Estrada's condition prevented him from returning Wednesday night to his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, where he is detained on charges of plunder and perjury.

It also precluded him from continuing his testimony today at his plunder trial before the Sandiganbayan Special Division.

Dr. Lorenzo Jocson, Estrada's personal physician, yesterday ordered the ex-President to be taken to the hospital.

He said Estrada, who was transported to the SJMC in a Ford Expedition SUV, would remain there the whole day today for medical tests.

"He definitely cannot attend today's hearing at the Sandiganbayan. He may be afflicted by diarrhea there," Jocson said, adding that the results of the tests would determine the length of the patient's stay in the hospital.

'High-powered meal'

Asked if Estrada was in danger, Jocson said: "The medical condition of the former President in not life-threatening." He said Estrada would be fed intravenously to ward off dehydration.

The 69-year-old actor-turned-politician with a reputed predilection for high living was said to have helped himself to a "high-powered meal."

According to Ferdie Ramos, Estrada's media liaison, the meal included *kare-kare, paksiw na lamang loob, chicharong taba, rellenong bangus, adobong baboy at manok*, cake and *leche flan*.

Ramos said Estrada began to vomit and suffer from diarrhea shortly after 7 p.m. on Wednesday. He was then in his residence at No. 1 Polk St., North Greenhills, San Juan, entertaining the guests of his mother who was celebrating her 101st birthday.

Ramos said Estrada's condition worsened later in the night, prompting his police escorts to postpone his return to Tanay.

He said Jocson later asked the police escorts to allow the ex-President to stay at the Polk house for medical observation.

Sandiganbayan Chief Sheriff Ed Urieta said he and the police officials present at Polk decided to let Estrada's physician determine whether the ex-President should be returned to his rest house or be confined in a hospital.

ERAP returns to his Greenhills home accompanied by Sandiganbayan Chief Sheriff Ed Urieta. RAFFY LERMA

"I went to his house on Polk Street and I saw that he was suffering from a stomachache," Urieta said. "I will wait for Dr. Jocson's evaluation before I report it to the court."

Shooting the breeze

But before his stomach acted up, Estrada was happily shooting the breeze with friends and members of the media.

The way he said it, he had forgiven his enemies and his wandering heart had settled for old, familiar loves.

The known Lothario described his love life as "like wearing old shoes."

"No more new loves," he said, but added with a chuckle:

"Above and below the belt, I am OK."

Estrada leisurely sipped red wine—but not his favorite, the expensive Petrus—while talking about his spread in Tanay that now includes a poultry, a piggery, a vegetable patch, a museum and a mausoleum where he wants to be buried.

His skin glowing, Estrada said he now had time for regular facials.

He removed his eyeglasses to show off his movie-star looks, partly enhanced by the surgical removal of an eyelid droop sometime ago.

But no pictures, please, he said, laughing.

Forgiving, forgetting

"I used to forgive, but not forget. Now, I can forgive and forget," Estrada declared.

But asked if it meant that he expected others to forgive him as well, he turned pensive before replying: "What is there to ask forgiveness for?"

Estrada was served a warrant of arrest in April 2001 at his Polk Street residence.

From a long detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, he was taken to an Army camp in Tanay just across from his vacation estate and private farm, to which he was eventually transferred.

Estrada said the farm had kept him busy.

"I have a poultry, a piggery, a vegetable garden. I'm a farmer. Soon I'll be fishing," he said, beaming.

He is tending ducks, now numbering 2,000 from 44. He has given away 180 piglets, to be raised by poor families living around his farm on the condition that they would each return three piglets to him when their own pigs start reproducing.

"I also have a little museum there, and my mausoleum," he said.

According to the account of businessman/columnist Herman Tiu Laurel, the Estrada mausoleum was patterned after that of US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in Washington, DC.

The vault is unusually wide, like it can accommodate two persons, according to Laurel.

"So we asked President Estrada if he wanted somebody with him there. You know what he said? 'I just want elbow room,'" Laurel said.

13-hour furlough

Early this week, with Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio and the Philippine National Police posing no objections, the Sandiganbayan Special Division allowed Estrada to attend his mother's birthday celebration.

The court order specified that Estrada was to stay for 13 hours at his Polk residence, after which he was to be returned to detention at his rest house in Tanay.

Estrada's lawyers tried to extend his furlough until today, the date of his scheduled testimony at his plunder trial.

They filed a supplemental motion, but it was rejected by the antigraft court.

Erap has tomb ready but has no plans of dying yet

From page A1

1 Polk St. in San Juan for his mother's 101st birthday celebration.

While awaiting the conclusion of his 5-year-old trial, Estrada keeps himself busy on his estate running a farm with 300 chickens and 200 hogs.

'Building a museum'

He said he was also building a museum that would showcase his life as a "superstar, mayor, senator, President and prisoner."

Estrada said it was US President Ronald Reagan who inspired him to run for the country's highest office.

"He is my idol," Estrada said. "It is from President Reagan that I got the idea of running."

"When he became president, I said to myself, if the most powerful nation can elect a movie actor as their president, I don't see any reason why the Filipinos cannot elect a movie actor also as their president," he said.

Estrada said he watched Reagan's sunset burial, suggesting he wanted a similar cinematic event when he goes.

"He really scheduled even the time of his burial," Estrada said. "It was beautiful, dramatic. He was really an actor."

However, Estrada gave no signs of planning to die anytime soon.

Serious ailment

The 69-year-old confessed womanizer and former heavy drinker and gambler said he was preparing "physically, mentally and spiritually" for being acquitted.

He said he had cut back on cigarettes—from three packs a day to one and a half. According to him, his days of drinking Scotch whisky were over. He has turned to wine instead.

His most serious ailment—weak knees that made him wobble when he walked—was corrected two years ago when he received titanium knee replacements in surgery in Hong Kong.

"They are perfect. I am now a bionic man," he said with a laugh.

Estrada said he wakes up at 6-7 a.m. each morning, does calisthenics in his small gym and gets into his sauna. This is followed by private prayers at 9 a.m. He then visits his chickens and hogs and supervises the museum construction.

"I am following more or less the Reagan type of museum," Estrada said. *AP*

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Manila mass breast-feeding busts record

From page A1

sults would be submitted to Guinness for evaluation.

"I think Manila has broken the world Guinness record for simultaneous breast-feeding. This afternoon we will have the preliminary result and in a couple of days we will have the official result," said Dr. Nicholas K. Alipui, Unicef representative in the Philippines.

Dubbed "Sabay-Sabay Sumuso sa Nanay," the event held at the San Andres Sports and Civic Center in Malate was also aimed at reviving the breast-feeding culture in the country, organizers said.

But it started out as a protest activity by mothers admonished not to breast-feed in public.

The activity evolved into a form of celebration during occasions like World Breast-Feeding Week.

Affirmation of life

"This is a magnificent gathering; this is one way of affirming that nothing will stop mothers from providing the best for their children," Alipui said, adding:

"Breast-feeding is life-affirming; it's the smartest, most effective way of giving a secure foundation to our children."

Dr. Elvira Henares-Esguerra, director of Children for Breast-feeding, said the rate of breast-feeding in the country had been declining at an alarming rate.

Citing the 2003 National Demographic Health Survey, Henares-Esguerra said that only 54 percent of infants were breast-fed within an hour after birth, and that only 33.5 percent of infants under six months were exclusively breast-fed.

The survey also showed that on average, Filipino infants were breast-fed exclusively for less than a month, and that the practice of breast-feeding young children lasted for 14 months only.

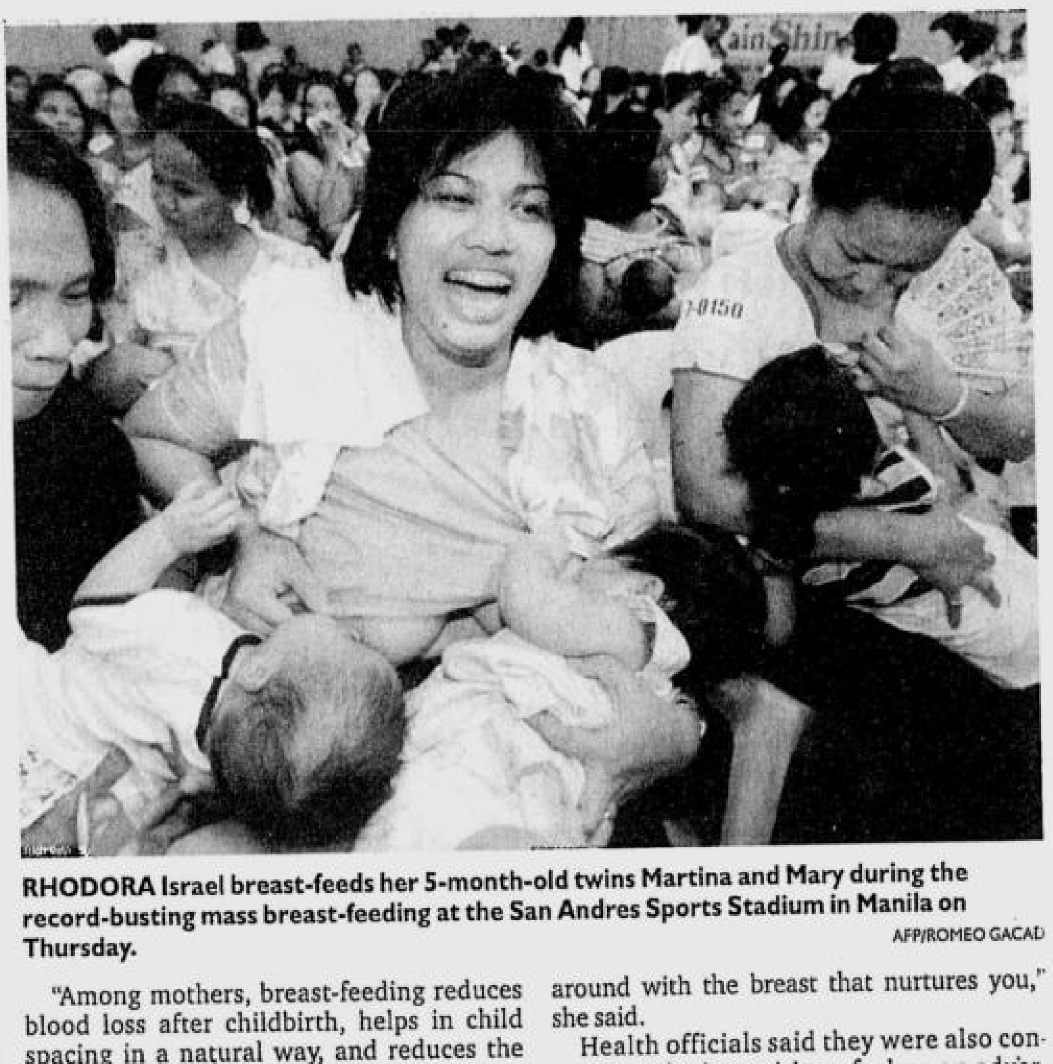
"That's why this event also seeks to encourage more mothers, particularly those in cities, to breast-feed optimally, meaning exclusive breast-feeding for the first six months of life, and continue breast-feeding with appropriate complementary food up to two years and beyond," Henares-Esguerra said.

Alipui called the downtrend on breast-feeding "a death sentence" for Filipino children, 16,000 of whom die yearly due to formula feeding.

A baby who receives infant formula in the first two months of its life is up to 25 times more likely to die from diarrhea and four times more likely to die from pneumonia than an exclusively breast-fed baby, Unicef has said.

Proven benefits

Henares-Esguerra said the health benefits of exclusive breast-feeding had been proven and were many.



RHODORA Israel breast-feeds her 5-month-old twins Martina and Mary during the record-busting mass breast-feeding at the San Andres Sports Stadium in Manila on Thursday. AFP/ROMEO GACAD

"Among mothers, breast-feeding reduces blood loss after childbirth, helps in child spacing in a natural way, and reduces the risk of various cancers associated with female organs (breast, ovaries and uterus)," she said.

Moreover, the physician said, babies who were exclusively breast-fed were smarter and incurred a low lifetime risk for diseases including diabetes, obesity and cancer.

She added that yesterday's activity was also a form of protest against misinformation on milk products.

Henares-Esguerra discouraged mothers from receiving milk donations.

She said that sometime last year, about 30 million liters of milk were contaminated in Europe.

"The manufacturers claimed that they had thrown out the contaminated milk, but how can we be sure? They may give it as donations to poor communities. So this is to warn people, mothers especially, from taking free milk products," she said.

Empowerment

Henares-Esguerra expressed the belief that mothers nursing babies would not only bring up the breast-feeding rate but also bring down the incidence of rape.

"Women will be empowered, and they will not allow rape to happen," she said.

"At the same time, men breast-fed for more than two years will remember the breast that nurtured them. You never fool around with the hand that feeds you; you never fool around with the breast that nurtures you," she said.

Health officials said they were also considering the imposition of a ban on advertising by milk companies claiming that formula milk was a substitute for breast milk.

The government of Manila, on the other hand, vowed to promote breast-feeding in the city's health centers, hospitals and government offices.

Mayor Lito Atienza said he would propose the installation of breast-feeding centers in government offices as well as in shopping malls.

"This is to accommodate nursing mothers," said Atienza, who claimed that all his children were breast-fed.

"I believe in breast-feeding. My wife breast-fed all our children and she remains beautiful, debunking the myth that breast-feeding can disfigure the body," he said.

Economical

Many of the mothers who took part in the event advocated breast-feeding because of its benefits to their babies. Some said they also considered it economical.

Lydia Angoloan and Shierley Teves, both 37 and residents of Tondo, said milk formula had become too expensive for their budgets.

Glenda Guevarra, 17, said she intended to breast-feed her 6-month-old daughter for more than two years because her eldest, to whom she fed infant formula, was sickly.

With an AP report

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15 years on, life returns to Pinatubo

From page A1

P80-a-day landless farm hands," Dumunot, now 29, told Agence France-Presse.

An estimated 500,000 people were rendered homeless when, after more than four centuries of slumber, Pinatubo erupted so violently that more than five billion cubic meters of ash and debris were ejected from its fiery bowels 30 km into the atmosphere.

Millions of tons of sulfur dioxide shot into the stratosphere, blocked sunlight and cooled the entire Earth by up to 0.6 degrees Celsius for years afterward.

Over the next six years, the volcanic material flowed down nine river channels during the annual wet season, bringing misery to about two million residents in low-lying areas covering 4,000 sq km.

These major waterways were clogged. Floods and mudslides destroyed homes, farms, roads, bridges and dikes built to defend communities from lahar.

Lahar-free homes

Fifteen years later, property developers in the Central Luzon plain tout "certified lahar-free" homes to potential buyers.

Santa Juliana is now experiencing a rebirth as a tourist gateway. Spas and resorts are sprouting up to cater to mountain trekkers, including South Koreans, who climb the mountain daily by the dozens during the dry months.

Lugging an inflatable kayak, a coil of fat rope capable of lifting a two-ton elephant, and a bag of squashed hamburgers, Dumunot now earns an extra P1,000 a week as part of a team of locals who serve as porters and guides to well-heeled visitors drawn to this mountain of death.

"This is a big help," said the father of four children. "My brother-in-law, my cousin and my uncle are also porters."

Dumunot is hoping he can save enough money to buy a sleeping bag and a tent like the colorful, ultra-light types set up for the night along the crater rim here.

Having none, he and the other porters sleep on cardboard boxes in the space beneath the crater's lake view deck.

All-terrain jeeps

At Santa Juliana, visitors rent battered all-terrain jeeps that barrel up the broad, flat bed of the O'Donnell River for an hour toward Crow Valley, a vast wasteland of volcanic sand and spent shell casings. The valley had served as a bombing range for the 7th US Air Force, which was driven off for good from its Clark Air Base home to the south of Santa Juliana during the eruption.

From the valley, the last third of the three-hour hike is through a gently ascending mountain pass, watered by a brook that feeds into O'Donnell. Some now take the climb on horseback, and others even use their own trail bikes.

A few people stay overnight, rappelling down a 25-meter section of the crater wall wearing helmets to protect themselves from the rocks dislodged by the rope.

Eruption remote

They also bathe or ride canoes at the 2.5-km diameter caldera, a turquoise-colored soup bowl of rain water that has collected through the years to a depth of up to 248 meters.

"There won't be another eruption in this generation because based on carbon dating samples, previous ones occurred at intervals of hundreds, to thousands, of years," said Jaime Sincioco, a senior scientist at the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

"The mudslides are gone. The only problem left is flooding in the low-lying areas because the rivers that radiate out from the crater are heavily silted," Sincioco added.

The government opened Pinatubo to the public in the mid-1990s, launching a new form of tourism where visitors were treated to a vision of hell on earth, featuring a moonscape of canyons and deep gullies in uniform gray.

All the plants and the animals that could not run, crawl or fly fast enough were vaporized by the superheated gases from the rim.

Gradually, by the late 1990s, the vegetation, along with songbirds and fireflies, had returned, stabilizing the remnants of the loose volcanic material deposited by the eruption onto the slopes of the Zambales mountain range.

However, the deeply scarred south side of the crater wall remains shorn of plant cover, destabilized by constant landslides that boom across the crater lake like prolonged claps of thunder. This area of the 1,485-meter-high mountain remains off limits to climbers.

Rapid pace of dev't

Sincioco is worried at the rapid pace of development around Pinatubo, fearing visitors could blunder into their deaths through ignorance or sheer carelessness.

"We actually discourage tourists from venturing into the crater lake," he said. "The crater wall is fractured, so there is a lot of landslide activity there."

Regulators are also critical of the recently opened dirt road on the ridge above Crow Valley, which shortened the climb by about 75 minutes but which officials fear could unsettle the still fragile ecosystem.

Sincioco said the new road, built by the local government with the aid of a legislator representing the district, would also cut off the tourism revenue streams to Dapili, an impoverished village at the end of the old trail populated by hunter-gatherer tribesmen called Aetas who were almost wiped out by the eruption.

"When we drafted the (Pinatubo rehabilitation) master plan, we stressed that the road should end at Santa Juliana," Sincioco said.

"If you allow motor vehicles beyond that area, they displace the (volcanic) deposits and contribute to erosion," he warned. *AFP*

'25 years more' is antismoking campaign's cry

From page A1

adult Filipino smokers at 36 percent.

On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day on May 31 under the auspices of the World Health Organization, a leading Filipino activist wants his compatriots to realize that "it's not yet too late" to quit smoking.

"Are we hopeless? Definitely not!" said Dr. Daniel Tan, president of the Tobacco Free Philippines.

Tan, a pulmonary medicine expert, talked to the INQUIRER yesterday at his Lourdes Hospital clinic about a relatively new system to help convince Filipinos to forget smoking, which is blamed for a number of chronic diseases like hypertension and heart problems.

Groundbreaking study

The system follows the American model of economist Kenneth Warner who made a groundbreaking study purportedly showing that doctors could substantially talk their patients out of smoking.

Citing Warner's study, Tan said doctors might be able to convince 2.5 out of every 100 smokers to give up puffing by devoting two minutes of "unstructured counseling" whenever they visit their clinic.

Another 2.5 smokers of the same number usually quit "on their own" every year, the Filipino expert said.

He noted that those who quit "yielded" an additional 15 to 20 years.

Tan was optimistic about the results if only the system were adopted not only by doctors but by every concerned individual in the community—parents, teachers, priests, lawyers, plumbers, drivers, and everybody convinced that smoking is bad.

Counseling

"Just imagine if this mentality spreads. We can save a lot of lives without really exerting so much effort," he said, noting that the Warner study showed that doctors spent only 3.3 hours on counseling their smoking patients annually.

Tan, who's been an antismoking advocate since 1986, said a Filipino adaptation of the Warner model could effectively combat the aggressive advertising of tobacco companies.

On top of physiological reasons, quitting smoking is understandably difficult for many people because of the "cues, the ubiquitous campaigns" of these giant companies, he said.

Substitutes

To conquer the addiction, one could resort to "substitutes" (like gum with low nicotine) and gradually progress from "contemplation" (thinking of quitting), "action" (actually quitting) to "maintenance" (keeping the decision)," he said.

Or a smoker could get himself lost on an island for a significant period so he's isolated, he said.

In both instances, Tan said support groups—family, friends, government and society at large—play a crucial role.

"It's not easy for a smoker to quit on his own. Other people, especially his loved ones, should be there for him," he said.

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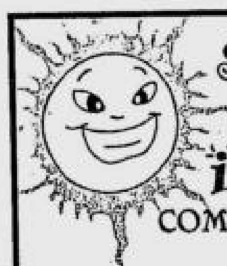

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The videos sent in will be aired on the Lifestyle Network on July 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 7:30-8:00 p.m. Viewers can then vote for their favorite entries via text from June 4 to July 23, 2006. The video with the most number of votes will win a free trip for four to Disneyland, USA. Voters will also get a chance to win a camera phone by participating.

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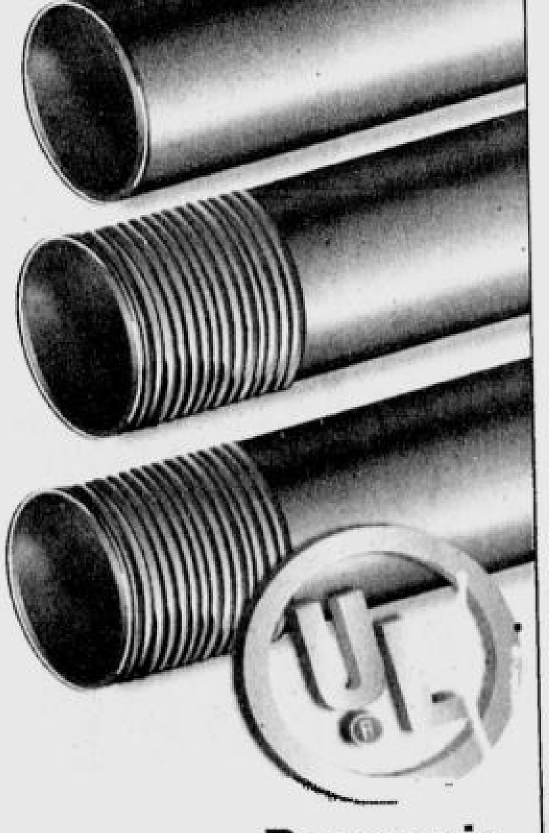

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Tip

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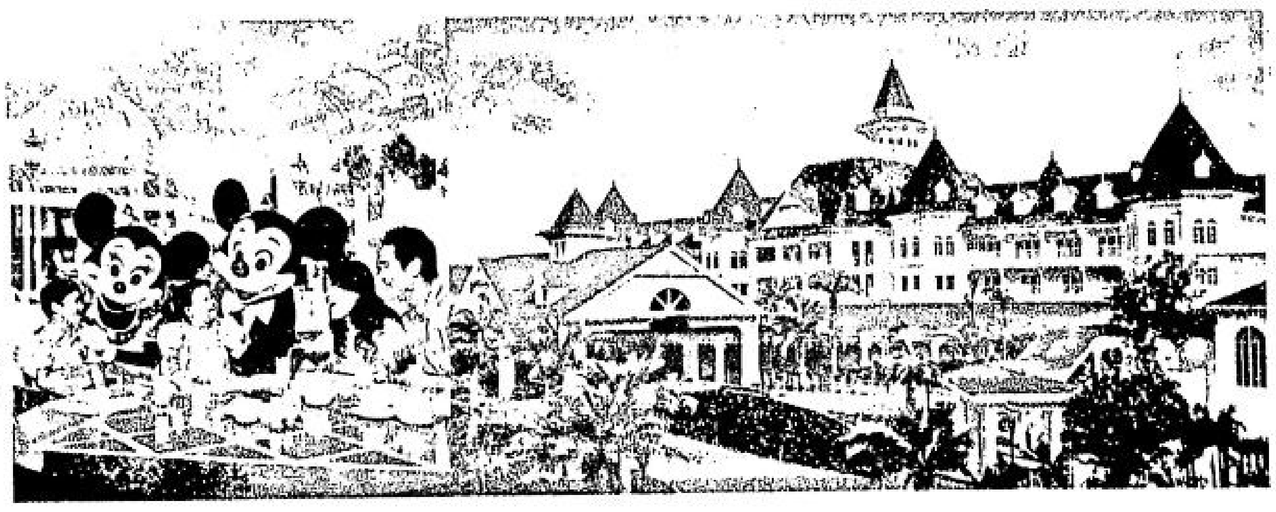

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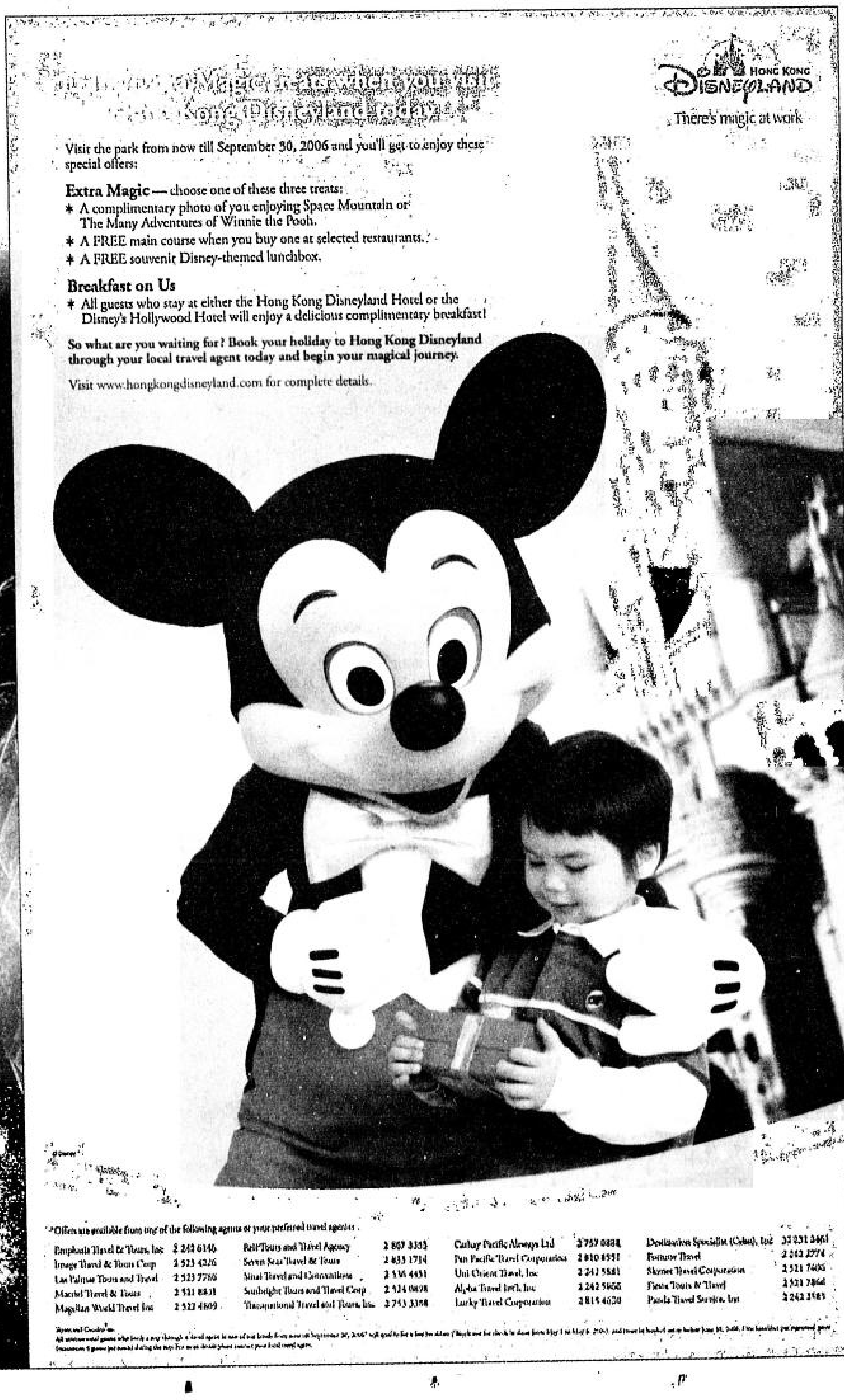

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Delayed relief

EDITORIAL

WITH REGARD TO PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 1017, the Supreme Court ruled that the President was within her powers in signing the document, but she and other officials went beyond what is constitutional in some of their subsequent actions. Among the actions deemed unconstitutional were the warrantless arrests of administration critics and the raid on the Daily Tribune newspaper. Furthermore, broad hints dropped by the police and administration officials that the government could take over public utilities, including media companies, have been declared improper and constitutionally forbidden without the authorization of Congress.

In other words, President Macapagal-Arroyo was within her rights to proclaim her state of mind: that a national emergency was taking place. Furthermore, she did not exceed her authority in calling out the Armed Forces and police. But how the police and other officials behaved themselves was wrong.

The administration proposed that the proclamation somehow creates new powers that government can wield, but the Court declared that this is not so. New powers cannot be manufactured, much less used, it said, and inherent powers, particularly emergency powers, are strictly regulated by the Constitution.

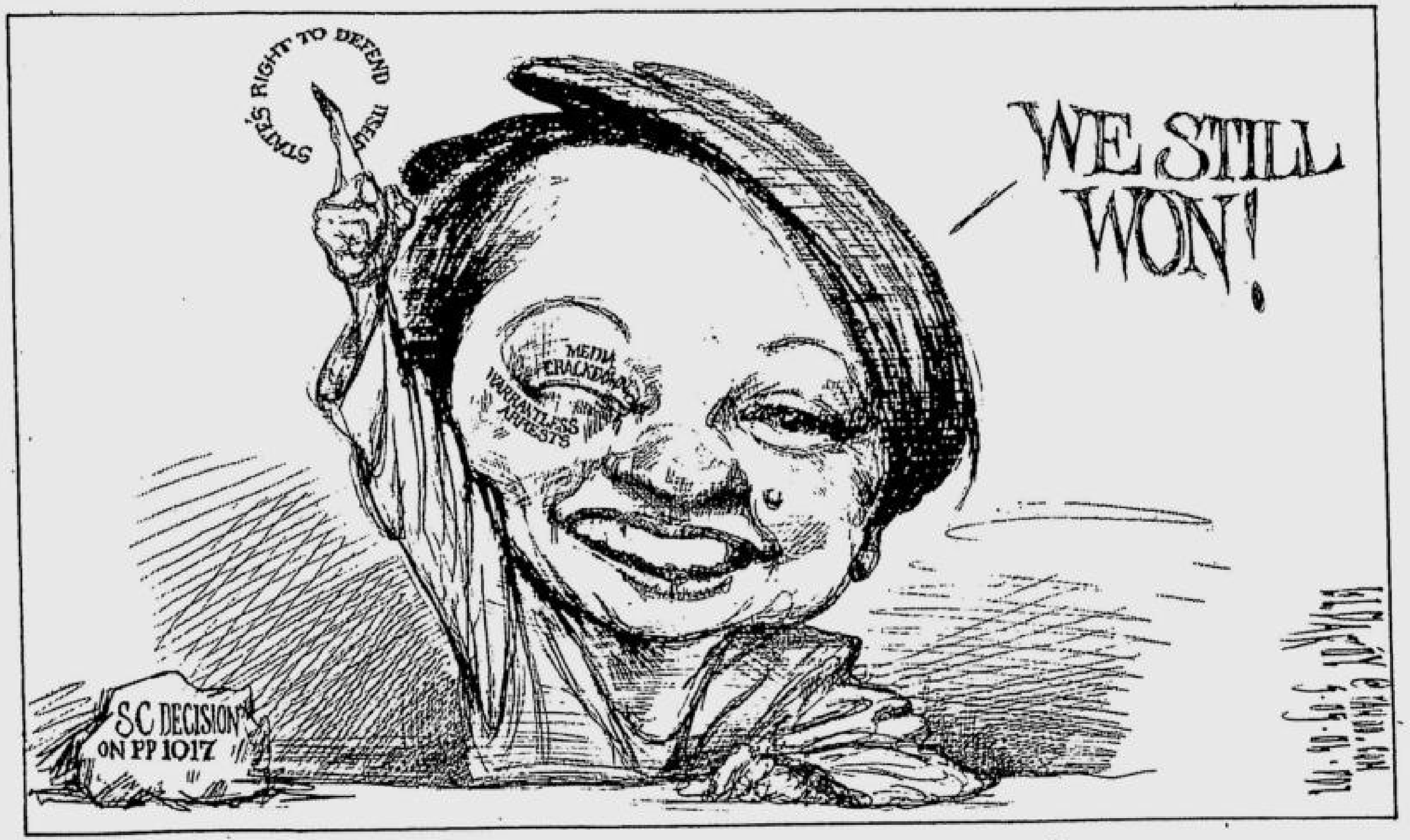
Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, in his concurring opinion, perhaps expressed it best and did so in behalf of concerned citizens who have been expressing similar views when he wrote: "Some of those who drafted PP 1017 may be testing the outer limits of presidential prerogatives and the perseverance of this Court in safeguarding the people's constitutionally enshrined liberty. They are playing with fire, and unless prudently restrained, they may one day wittingly or unwittingly burn down the country. History will never forget, much less forgive, this Court if it allows such misadventure and refuses to strike down abuse at its inception. Worse, our people will surely condemn the misuse of legal hocus pocus to justify this trifling with constitutional sanctities."

The question is, what is going to happen now that the Court has handed down its decision? We do not expect either an apology or an offer of compensation by the administration to those arrested, detained and searched, supposedly by virtue of PP 1017. As we have pointed out previously, repentance and contrition, even in the face of reversals by the courts, aren't hallmarks of the President or her advisers. In which case, it is reasonable to expect that individuals and groups will have to seek legal redress for having been subjected to illegal treatment by agents of the state.

Which brings up a point of great interest to lawyers and non-lawyers alike. If "justice delayed is justice denied," then it must be asked whether our society can afford to let months pass before challenges to official actions that have an immediate, and perhaps irreversible, effect are decided. If the Chief Justice himself fears that "the limits of presidential prerogatives" are being tested and recognizes the need for the courts to "strike down abuse at its inception," isn't there a need for the courts to act upon questionable executive actions sooner instead of later?

The transition between one Chief Justice and his successor may have led to some kind of lag between the filing and resolution of cases. But Panganiban is now firmly in the saddle and will remain there until December. By his own words, he has surveyed the terrain, and sees danger on the horizon. For a society that, on the whole, remains hopeful that the Supreme Court is an impartial and credible mediator not only between branches of government but between officialdom and the citizenry, a better balance between the need to deliberate and the necessity of arriving at decisions that are not mere irrelevancies must be found.

It is for the public to demand that there be accountability on the part of the executive branch which has been declared three times in a row to have gratuitously and dangerously exceeded its authority. But it is for the judiciary to intervene sooner, so that what is wrong can be set right, and not merely declared improper after all the improper objectives of the authorities have been achieved, and thus made irreversible.



Housing project vs water safety

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE PRESENT CONTROVERSY OVER A PROposed housing project on 58 hectares of the La Mesa Dam watershed is a quarrel not only between environmentalists and workers of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), as a newspaper headline put it, but really a collision between the wellbeing of 1,411 members of two MWSS labor unions and millions of residents of Metro Manila who get their water from the La Mesa reservoir. A panel of experts from the University of the Philippines commissioned by the MWSS to study the effect of the housing project on the reservoir came out with the recommendation that the "area in the La Mesa watershed proposed as the site of the MWSS housing project (should) remain a protected watershed." The reason: the housing project will pollute the reservoir and therefore the drinking water of Metro Manila.

The La Mesa Dam watershed is 1,700-hectares of mostly forestland in Quezon City. The reservoir itself comprises 700 hectares, and the water supply of Metro Manila comes from it. The rest is forestland whose runoff water flows into the lake.

Back in 1968, two labor unions were granted by management 58 hectares of land near (not within) the La Mesa watershed for a housing project, as part of their collective bargaining agreement. The land was to be sold to the unions at P5.50 per sq m or a total of P3.18 million. The down payment has already been paid. The property was raffled off and awarded to 1,411 union members.

Eventually, however, a new site was designated within the perimeter of the La Mesa watershed. Moreover, whereas the original site was below the reservoir, the new site is above it. Thus water runoff from the housing project will flow down to the reservoir.

Alarmed by the danger the project poses to the safety of the water, the MWSS commissioned a panel of experts from the UP National Hydraulic Research Center (UP-NHRC) to study the threats of the project on the water quality of the reservoir.

The team, headed by Leonardo Q. Tiongson, director of the UP-NHRC, and six other water experts, spent six months studying and planning how the safety of the water can be assured. It came to the conclusion that no matter what abatement and safety procedures are adopted, the danger of water contamination remains. It recommended, in effect, that the housing project be relocated so that the entire watershed will remain a protected area.

Consequently, MWSS Administrator Orlando C. Hondrade wrote to then Environment Secretary Michael Defensor echoing Professor Liongson's concerns and recommendations. He admitted that the proposed 58-hectare housing project "posed a serious threat on the reservoir's water quality and quantity."

The problem is that the Supreme Court, after 38 years, has already affirmed the legality of the contract between the MWSS and the unions. The deal was consummated only last March with the turnover of the absolute deeds of sale to the claimants.

But that is not the end of it. The danger to the health of Metro Manila is so great and real that a growing group of environmentalists, led by Bantay Kalikasan which is now rehabilitating the whole La Mesa watershed and has developed the Eco Park on a part of it, is now appealing that the project be relocated.

Before the project can be started, the DENR must issue an Environment Compliance Certificate (ECC) to make sure it is not harmful to the environment. The DENR said nobody has applied for an ECC yet. And considering the threat to Metro Manila's water supply, it doesn't think the project will get an ECC.

We cannot be so sure. There are private companies run by former DENR officials and employees specializing in getting ECCs for their clients. They always get them—if the price is right.

But the biggest problem is how to go around the Supreme Court decision which has become final and executory. The beneficiaries will surely hammer on this. Especially because the site has now become prime property, costing thousands of times more than the original acquisition cost, and vested interests, real estate developers and land grabbers are now behind the claimants.

But there is a ray of hope in the horizon. There is a principle in law that says a "supervening event" can render a final and executory decision unenforceable. This means that an event that takes place after a decision has become final and executory, but before the decision is enforced, can make the decision unenforceable. As recently as July 29, 1996, the Court used this "supervening event" principle not to enforce a final and executory decision in Flores v. Ligon.

In the La Mesa housing project, there is not only one but two "supervening events" that came after the Court's decision. One is the report and recommendation of the UP-NHRC team on the risks posed by the housing project on the reservoir. The other is the enactment of the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act which provides that all protected areas, such as parks and watersheds, are beyond the commerce of man and cannot be sold or titled to private individuals.

Early this year, the Supreme Court used the same law to declare the garbage dump in San Mateo, Rizal, illegal and order its permanent closure.

Note that in seeking to prevent the housing project inside La Mesa, the workers are not being deprived of homes. The project will merely be transferred to another site. In fact, the MWSS has already offered a property in Antipolo which is double the size of the present site.

'Trifling with constitutional sanctities'

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

"SOME OF THOSE WHO DRAFTED [PRESIdential Proclamation] 1017 may be testing the outer limits of presidential [power.] They are playing with fire, and unless prudently restrained, they may one day wittingly or unwittingly burn down the country. ... Worse, our people will surely condemn the misuse of legal hocus-pocus to justify this trifling with constitutional sanctities."

This was stern language from Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, who joined the majority decision and added his separate opinion—"a little comment," he described it—replying to the vigorous dissent by Justice Dante Tinga.

The Supreme Court, in a decision written by Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, went far beyond the Court's earlier rulings when President Macapagal-Arroyo issued similar proclamations after the Edsa III assault on Malacañang on Labor Day in May 2001 and the Oakwood Mutiny in August 2003.

One, GMA lifted the state of national emergency while the Court was still hearing this case, and asked the Court to "moot" all legal challenges. GMA is rather fond of this maneuver, as she had done after the Labor Day assault in 2001—and the Court then dismissed the challenge as moot and academic. In David et al., however, the Court insisted that the case be "resolved to prevent future constitutional aberration[s]."

Two, when GMA declared a "state of rebellion" for the second time, following the Oakwood incident in 2003, the Court then said that the declaration was an "utter superfluity" which was "devoid of any legal significance." In David et al., the Court actually struck down as unconstitutional the warrantless arrests of Randy David and Ronald Llamas; the violent dispersal of rallies of Kilusang Mayo Uno; the warrantless raid on the Tribune offices and the "whimsical seizures" of articles for publication; and the prior restraint on the press and the imposition of guidelines on media. All these acts, Gutierrez emphasized, were "not authorized by the Constitution, the law and jurisprudence."

Three, Gutierrez carefully confined the President to measures needed to deal specifically with "lawless violence," that is to say, a situation of chaos, anarchy and looting. She rebuked as "extraneous" the power of the military to enforce laws unrelated to the lawless violence, including presidential decrees that PP 1017 purported to authorize. She warned, as petitioners David et al. had urged, that the President needs congressional authority before she can seize private businesses. She limited this "takings" power solely to economic emergencies, and excluded the national security threats invoked by PP 1017.

Tinga, joined by two others, including the most recent high court appointee, Justice Presbitero Velasco (who by the way was not yet on the Court when the 1017 cases were argued), wrote a strong dissent. "I regret ... that the majority ... has imprudently placed the Court in the business of defanging paper tigers." He called the decision an "immodest show of brawn" by the Court for having "departed ... from the plain language of [PP 1017] to the extent of second-guessing the Chief Executive."

The Chief Justice replied: "The Dissent dismisses all the Petitions, grants no reliefs to petitioners, and finds nothing wrong with PP 1017. .... Under this line of thinking, it would be perfectly legal for the President to reissue PP 1017 under its present language and nuance." He concluded: "Even Justice Tinga concedes that under PP 1017, the police—'to some minds'—'may have flirted with power.' With due respect, this is a masterful understatement. PP 1017 may be a paper tiger, but—to borrow the colorful words of an erstwhile Asian leader—it has nuclear teeth that must indeed be defanged."

As I have written earlier in this space, I am a partisan in this case, having argued before the Court (together with professor Harry Roque) in behalf of Randy David, Akbayan president Ronald Llamas and Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III. I disagree with the Court that all these civil rights violations can be separated from PP 1017. Can we thus insulate President Arroyo from all responsibility?

Both the majority and the dissent confirm that those who violate civil liberties must be punished. The President took an oath "to preserve and defend [the] Constitution [and] execute [our] laws." The Constitution says that she "shall ensure that the laws be faithfully executed." Has she called the erring military officers to answer for violations, or has she in fact promoted or rewarded them?

The Court has already thrice rebuffed the President's faulty legal measures: EO 464 and the stifling of the congressional power of inquiry; the calibrated preemptive response relied upon to unleash anti-riot police upon civilians; and now, PP 1017. Has she actually disclaimed, disowned, disavowed any of the acts chastised by the Court?

When she signed PP 1017, her Cabinet secretaries declared that this would authorize warrantless arrests and the seizure of private businesses. Under the "alter ego" theory, acts by the Cabinet secretaries are acts by the President. Is she really that distant from the civil rights violations? Since February 24, the day a national emergency was declared, has she taken a single step to correct those who had erred? Or has she embraced their acts as her own?

Felix Frankfurter said: "The accretion of dangerous power does not come in a day. It does come, however slowly, from ... unchecked disregard of the [laws] that fence in [state power]." Elsewhere, US courts have cautioned: "[I]llegitimate ... practices get their first footing ... by silent approaches and slight deviations .... It is the duty of the courts to [guard] against [such] stealthy encroachments."

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Rebuffed again

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IN A SPAN OF TWO WEEKS, THE SUPREME Court has handed down a series of decisions that struck a ringing blow for political liberties and against a threatening authoritarianism.

The Court sharply rebuked President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration with a train of three decisions that sought to curb abuse of executive power as it declared as illegal, in a May 3 decision, a clause in Presidential Proclamation 1017 (which declared a national emergency on Feb. 24) giving her authority to issue decrees.

For the first time since it slammed the brakes on the administration's seemingly irresistible lurch toward authoritarian rule, the Court did not mince words in warning the nation that the administration was retracing the introduction of the Marcos dictatorship when the President issued the enabling clause of PP 1017 empowering her "To enforce obedience to all the laws and decrees, orders and regulations promulgated by me personally or upon my direction."

The Court cited the similarity between the wordings of PP 1017 and President Marcos' Proclamation 1081 declaring martial law in 1972. The clause, which allowed warrantless arrests, prompted Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban to say, "They (the administration) are playing with fire and, unless prudently restrained, they may one day wittingly or unwittingly burn down the house."

This latest rebuff by the Court of the administration followed a decision which rolled back portions of Ms Arroyo's Executive Order 464, which banned executive department officials from testifying at congressional inquiries without her permission, and another decision which voided the administration's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy.

The decision on PP 1017 and that on the CPR represent an emphatic blow for individual liberties and reflect the Court's heightening concern over the apparently authoritarian tendencies of the administration. In these decisions, the Court clearly moved beyond issues involving the maintenance of the delicate balance of power between the executive and legislative departments within the system of checks and balances.

The issue over EO 464 involved separation of powers. The Court's decision upheld the legislative right to compel executive department officials to testify at its inquiries "in aid of legislation," and it also associated such appearances in Congress with the enhancement of the public's "right to know" (through information revealed in the hearings) and "the right to participate" in democratic governance.

However, the decisions on PP 1017 and on CPR directly defended the individual citizen's liberties from abuse in the exercise of state powers by a repressive regime in the course of its struggle for political survival, that has been justified as the "right of the state to defend itself."

This is what makes the decisions more important to the citizens than the decision on EO 464, which is directly relevant to the members of the legislature. The two decisions define their thrust as differentiated from the thrust of the decision on EO 464. Citizens are defenseless against arbitrary and warrantless arrests, while members of Congress have stronger defenses provided by parliamentary immunities.

The direct application of the decision on PP 1017 in protecting the political rights of assembly and freedom of the press was explicitly stated when the Court held that PP 1017 did not justify the imposition of warrantless arrests, the raid on the office of the Daily Tribune and prior restraint on the press. The Court could not have been more emphatic when it ruled that: "The warrantless arrests of Randolf David and Ronald Llamas; the dispersal and warrantless arrests of the KMU and Naflu-KM members during the rallies, in the absence of proof that they were committing acts constituting lawless violence ... the imposition of standards on media or any form or prior restraint on the press, as well as the warrantless search of the Tribune offices and the seizure of its articles for publication and other materials, are declared unconstitutional."

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The Court's decisions assume further significance in the context of the administration coming under increasing international criticism over what is perceived to be its authoritarian tendencies. They give authoritative weight to, for example, a recent editorial of the New York Times, which said, in part:

"Earlier this year (President Arroyo) briefly declared a state of emergency in response to allegations of a coup threat that others disputed. Since then she has been intensifying pressure on a wide range of political critics and especially on the press. Government officials have warned news outlets that they will be held to restrictive new guidelines, the justice secretary talks darkly about a journalistic watch list... No government has made such efforts to muzzle the press since the Marcos era.

"President Bush has repeatedly hailed Mrs. Arroyo as an important ally against international terrorism. He now needs to warn her that by undermining a hard-won democracy, she is making her country far more than vulnerable to terrorist pressures."

Still, the defense of democracy is mainly the responsibility of the Filipinos and their independent institutions.

Houses, churches and 'abel'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"TO UNDERSTAND ILOCANOS, YOU NEED TO understand our culture and traditions," declared Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. at the start of the launching ceremonies of this year's Filipino Heritage Festival.

And if anyone needed proof of this, the launch of the month-long festival showed just how much value Ilocanos place on their history and heritage.

St. Augustine Church of Paoay was fittingly the setting for the festival's launch. A Unesco World Heritage Site, the church took 16 years to build (1694-1710), originally from baked brick, corals, tree sap, sand, lime, sugarcane, straw and other local materials. Its distinctive profile—squat with a curvy roofline, with 24 step buttresses showcasing classic "swirls"—has long served as a symbol of Ilocano heritage, particularly the province's many distinctive Catholic churches, some dating back to hundreds of years.

After the Sunday Mass, we walked to Herencia de Paoay, where tall shady trees provided some relief from the summer heat as we partook of brunch, listened to speeches and watched a reenactment of the Guling-guling Festival, a parade of street dances which is usually held just before Holy Week.

From there, we proceeded to a nearby elementary school where *abel Iloco*, sturdy cotton weaves in unique colors and patterns, was showcased. Different towns and tribes have their own patterns and styles, with the cloth crafted into fabric, blankets, pillowcases, table cloths and runners, shirts, bags and even headwear.

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THREE residences in Paoay are honored as "heritage sites," and two of them, the Carpio House and the Diaz House, both built in the *bahay na bato* style and called "white houses," stand next to each other near the town center.

Because we were having dinner at the Diaz house, we toured the Carpio house next door, with Conchita Carpio Claudio as our most informative guide.

Though it has undergone some renovation, particularly the wooden floor which was installed to replace the original planks that had rotted through, the Carpio house retains much of its original appearance. The Carpio family has had a long history of civic service, starting with an ancestor who served as one of the earliest *capitans* or mayors of the town, and records of the family members' accomplishments, as well as personal memorabilia of several generations, are lovingly preserved and displayed.

Next on the schedule was a residence that had been recognized during the Guling-guling Festival as a nearly century old structure, a small hut constructed of wood and nipa. Aside from touring the humble home, we were also treated to a *basi*-making demonstration, as well as a display of traditional Ilocano kitchen implements.

The last home in Paoay that we visited is just over 50 years old but is considered a heritage structure because of its octagonal shape. The Duque House was the concept of Constancio Duque, who came back to Ilocos Norte some time in the 1940s after studies in the United States where he presumably imbibed unorthodox ideas about architecture. The house will soon be undergoing restoration, with the cost shouldered by the family, daughter Duquesa announced proudly.

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WE then motored to Laoag, where we visited the Museo Ilocos Norte, an award-winning institution that occupies an abandoned tobacco warehouse. Intelligently and most creatively curated, the Museo showcases the ethnic and folkloric heritage of Ilocos Norte, walking visitors through ancient Ilocos, the markets and villages of the province, farmers' homes and on to the traditional bahay na bato. The Museo is apparently a very popular tourist destination, as busloads of Japanese and Korean tourists were unloaded in just the few minutes we were there.

From there, we proceeded to the Dap-ayan ti Ilocos, a fast-food court with stalls displaying and selling arts, crafts and local delicacies, where we partook of *merienda* of native fare like piping hot Ilocano *empanada*. While at the Dap-ayan, we were also treated to a fashion show of outfits crafted out of *abel*, serving as well as a history lesson on the evolution of such traditional garb as the *terno*, the *Maria Clara* and the *barong*.

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EASILY the highlight of the festival launch was the concert of Cecile Licad and other artists inside Paoay Church, which had been transformed into a beautiful concert venue, the first such cultural event to be held inside the historic church.

Very popular with the audience were the Ilocano airs by tenor Lemuel dela Cruz and soprano Alexis Edralin, while young pianist Bianca Montanez charmed her provincemates with a Schubert piece. Licad captured the hearts of the audience not just with her powerful playing, but more so with her impassioned approach, her total immersion in the music, her physicality and lyricism. It was truly a most magical experience and a grand setting for a truly world-class artist.

The launch ended the next day, with dinner at Malacañang ti Amianan, set on a hillside above Paoay Lake. Things came to a literally explosive end, with a grand fireworks display courtesy of Ricky Crisostomo of La Mancha Fireworks, the same outfit that brought us the Fireworks Olympics over the Christmas season. No matter how many times we see a fireworks display, we're never jaded, and the show we watched Monday night was more awe-inspiring than most.

My personal thanks to Dr. Purito Catubay and the rest of the ER staff of the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital in Batac for all their help when I met an accident (it's a long story) inside Paoay Church, just before the concert. Save for a few bruises, I've obviously lived to write another column!

Hair care among 17th-century Visayans

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ON MY WAY OUT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF Santo Tomas campus last year, I saw a table in the football field laid out with books. Everything was on sale, but there seemed to be no takers. Maybe it was lunch time, or maybe the people who played football or jogged around weren't interested in books. Seeing all those unwanted books made me feel bad and inspired me to give some of them a new home.

When I got home that evening and opened the hefty bundle to inspect my loot, I wondered why I picked up obscure academic journals I would never open in my life. The jewel in the lot, and the most expensive, was a two-volume, hard-cover edition of "Historia de las islas e indios de bisayas" by the Jesuit Ignacio Francisco Alcina.

Most historians know of this work, but few have read it because, for the longest time, it was only available as an offset copy of the original manuscript of 1668 that was practically unreadable. Fortunately, we now have a printed edition, translated from the original Spanish and enriched with erudite annotations and cross-references by the Franciscan Cantius J. Kobak and the Dominican Lucio Gutierrez. (So you see, Virginia, not all friars are bad people.)

While the Visayas is not normally in the route of my research, I was drawn to the descriptions of the flora and fauna described by Alcina, and found the descriptions of the looks and customs of the Visayans even more engaging. What makes the work significant is that we seem to have changed little since 1668. Visayans then and Filipinos today are still concerned with their hair and skin color. Alcina could even be the source of that TV commercial about a whitening soap, where a dark baby is brought to baptism and the priest gets surprised that the parents are so fair:

"Their hair is black; however, sometimes due to nature's whim, one sees some red-haired natives of white complexion and with some reddish specks as if they were Flemish. Some years ago, I baptized a child who was so blonde and white and with blue eyes, together with other similar characteristics, as if he had been born in Holland. The parents were very brown and free from any immoral suspicion, due to the fact that they lived in an out-of-the-way place and without any contact with white people; the mother was ugly and had no mixture of foreign blood... Similarly, a woman in Manila had in her home a girl, born of kaffir parentage, with the same characteristics. Both had poor sight in the daytime because of their very blue color."

The eminent anthropologist F. Landa Jocano once told me that if you read the 16th-century, contact-period, Spanish accounts of the Philippines and Filipinos, you would see similarities between our time and theirs. Hair is a good example because we have so many shampoo and conditioners being advertised today. He suggested mining these old accounts not only to understand ourselves but also to help in the marketing of certain products:

"[Women's hair] receive [more] attention than any other part of the body. Often they would permit it to grow so long that it would sometimes touch the ground; it's so thick that they would bunch it up. They take extreme care in keeping it clean and well combed, washing it many times a year with some bark of a tree which acts like soap. They treat it with various types of fragrant oils, of which the most common is sesame. They say it makes the hair grow better and also kills the lice. [The women] perfume it with flowers and aromatic herbs, while the principalias massage it with civet, ambergris and musk, so that they always have a pleasant scent."

Alcina found men who wore their hair long "effeminate" and even cited St. Paul who "characterized [long hair as] highly improper." But it was the women and their coiffure that he described in detail. I was surprised that Visayans already used false hair over 400 years ago:

"Many of them have a curl which they wear in ringlets about the forehead without any irons or instruments [hair pins]. They tie up the hair with some gracefulness at the back of the head, rather than high on the crown and in a rose-like fashion almost as large as the head itself. They take great delight in making it bigger and bigger; so that rare is a woman who does not keep adding a mass of false hair [into her own] so as to create a spiral-like effect (or rosettes). Although these hair arrangements do fit well, they cause a great strain on the hairline near the forehead and thereby bring about baldness to some of them even in their youth. And so, for the adornment which they so sought to add to their hair, they had to pay for it with eventual ugliness even if they want to hide it. Also, to this said rosette of hair, they added flowers and fragrant herbs, which they called *tagonbaisat*, which means 'something that adds to the beauty.' (This seems to be a habitual weakness of all women. Even these women in this unpolished civilization were tainted with it, for no matter how uncomely one may seem, there is always a strong penchant to appear beautiful)."

One has to be critical though, to see through Alcina's biases. Why should anyone be faulted for wanting to be beautiful? Seeing the Visayans through the eyes of a 17th-century Jesuit can be very refreshing.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Docents

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"JELLYFISHES DON'T JAM," CARLINA QUIPPED WITH A straight face.

Carlina was this little elderly woman who had been assigned to guide our group around the Monterey Aquarium when I visited last February. She was a walking encyclopedia, ready to answer questions about the exhibits and the Aquarium itself, with a few jokes on the side like the jamming jellyfish.

That's not an easy job, when you consider the varieties of marine life they have in the Aquarium. But Carlina handled it like a breeze, whether explaining how tuna fish get heart attacks from too rich a diet, or the filtration processes for the different aquariums. We think of them mainly as tourist or museum guides, but some of these docents live up to the original Latin meaning of the word, which is "teacher."

I first encountered the term in the Netherlands, where a docent meant a professor. Then a few years ago, while touring a redwoods forest in California, I heard the term again, this time used to refer to the person who was guiding us on a walking tour of the woods. He knew everything about these giant trees, from the way they reproduce to how they gave the city of Palo Alto its name. (I could imagine the early settlers looking at the trees and gasping, "*Palo alto*!" That's Spanish for tall trees.)

Docents do all this without salaries, almost like a hobby. During the week, our redwoods forest docent earned a living as a computer programmer, while Carlina had long retired but still had the stamina to docent in the aquarium.

Ku Klux Katipunan

Impressed with the docents I met in the United States, I've often wondered if we had similar volunteers in the Philippines. I got my answer the other week when Ken Esguerra of the Ayala Museum called and asked if I could lecture at a training workshop for their museum docents.

I got extremely short notice, but I said yes right away, thrilled that we did have docents here. In the case of the Ayala Museum, these docents' main function is to guide people around the museum's famous dioramas, which give a brief but comprehensive overview of the history of the Philippines from the precolonial period to the present.

A docent needs to be ready to answer all kinds of questions. I've had a taste of these questions doing my own informal docent work with foreign friends whom I bring to the Ayala Museum. For example, one time, in front of a diorama depicting a secret Katipunan ritual, with its members in white hoods, one of my American visitors exclaimed with distress, "Oh dear, is that the Ku Klux Klan?"

It was easy explaining that the Ku Klux Klan never established a foothold here. More difficult was going into details about the Katipunan, starting with its kilometric full name. You give it a try: Kataastaasang Kagalanggalangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan.

History's stories

Like docents elsewhere, the Ayala Museum's volunteers work out of a love for the museum. They're asked to put in at least four hours a month, whether as guides or as researchers. In exchange, they get free admission to the museum, discounts at the shop and invitations to all the museum events.

I think, though, that their greatest perk is the teaching and learning experiences. To teach, docents need to keep learning, and the museum gives a good head start with the training workshop.

INQUIRER columnist Manolo Quezon, who handles much of the docent training, briefed me right before the workshop, and explained that the training wasn't meant so much to give facts and figures than to help the docents to think differently about history itself and make it more alive and relevant. I watched as he tried to do this with the docents themselves, asking them to share what they knew about the origins of their surnames and their hometowns.

I tried to do something similar with the pre-colonial period, getting them to think about the stories behind each of the dioramas. For example, I reminded them that when there's trade, there are all kinds of social interactions, people learning about each other's cultures and borrowing words for the supernatural as well as for the mundane, such as food. Trade lubricated the borrowing of words from Arabic, Javanese, Malay, Chinese, and that includes terms to describe the feelings hosts and visitors had. (Here's one example I didn't use in Ayala: the word "*mahal*" is imported, and I don't think we adopted it in the context of trading alone.)

Columnists and docents

We need to train docents throughout the country. I am certain even the smallest and most remote of our towns already have potential docents. Elderly people are already telling and retelling their stories to their captive audiences, meaning their grandchildren, so why not get them to do this for the town's visitors as well?

In Palawan, I once visited a mangrove area with local residents serving as guides and explaining the flora and fauna. I felt the tour was a bit too mechanical, too facts-and-figures in its approach, but it was a good start.

I guess in a way columnists like Manolo and myself find affinity with docents because doing a column is one variation on docent work. We get paid for our columns, but beyond the writing, we often put in much time and effort forresearch, for interviewing people, for finding ways to transform learning into a fun process. That's a docent's work.

Docents, and columnists, work with a sense of mission. When I have American visitors, I stay longer with the dioramas depicting the Filipino-American war, talking about the hardships Filipinos went through, as well as the anti-imperialist movement in the United States, which included the likes of Mark Twain. A recent visitor said sorry, she had not known about that war, and then lamented, "How sad that we're repeating our mistakes—this time in Iraq." (The regular docents told me they've also had Japanese visitors apologizing for World War II, completely with the bowing.)

But docents should be more than glorified tourist guides for foreigners. Even more importantly, the work of a docent is to bridge the generations among Filipinos. There's much docents can do—organizing heritage tours, eating tours, nature tours—and we should be doing this with our own hometowns, retrieving the knowledge from older people and passing this on to the young. Each child, who is fortunate to have a good docent, will remember the stories for life, taking away insights that will give him or her a better sense of who we are as a people.

Nature watch

Try to visit the UP Diliman campus this weekend. The fire trees (also sometimes called flame trees) are beginning to bloom. If you're lucky, you should be able to catch the sunflowers we planted for our new graduates.

A tree watch could also be combined with a bird watch. Mike Lu of the Wild Bird Society texted me the other day about how, in their neighborhood, the regal fire trees seem to succeed quite well in calling in the birds. One of his neighbors has spotted, among others, kingfishers, woodpeckers and *kulasisi* (the winged type).

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* * *

EASILY the highlight of the festival launch was the concert of Cecile Licad and other artists inside Paoay Church, which had been transformed into a beautiful concert venue, the first such cultural event to be held inside the historic church.

Very popular with the audience were the Ilocano airs by tenor Lemuel dela Cruz and soprano Alexis Edralin, while young pianist Bianca Montanez charmed her provincemates with a Schubert piece. Licad captured the hearts of the audience not just with her powerful playing, but more so with her impassioned approach, her total immersion in the music, her physicality and lyricism. It was truly a most magical experience and a grand setting for a truly world-class artist.

The launch ended the next day, with dinner at Malacañang ti Amianan, set on a hillside above Paoay Lake. Things came to a literally explosive end, with a grand fireworks display courtesy of Ricky Crisostomo of La Mancha Fireworks, the same outfit that brought us the Fireworks Olympics over the Christmas season. No matter how many times we see a fireworks display, we're never jaded, and the show we watched Monday night was more awe-inspiring than most.

My personal thanks to Dr. Purito Catubay and the rest of the ER staff of the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital in Batac for all their help when I met an accident (it's a long story) inside Paoay Church, just before the concert. Save for a few bruises, I've obviously lived to write another column!

Hair care among 17th-century Visayans

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ON MY WAY OUT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF Santo Tomas campus last year, I saw a table in the football field laid out with books. Everything was on sale, but there seemed to be no takers. Maybe it was lunch time, or maybe the people who played football or jogged around weren't interested in books. Seeing all those unwanted books made me feel bad and inspired me to give some of them a new home.

When I got home that evening and opened the hefty bundle to inspect my loot, I wondered why I picked up obscure academic journals I would never open in my life. The jewel in the lot, and the most expensive, was a two-volume, hard-cover edition of "Historia de las islas e indios de bisayas" by the Jesuit Ignacio Francisco Alcina.

Most historians know of this work, but few have read it because, for the longest time, it was only available as an offset copy of the original manuscript of 1668 that was practically unreadable. Fortunately, we now have a printed edition, translated from the original Spanish and enriched with erudite annotations and cross-references by the Franciscan Cantius J. Kobak and the Dominican Lucio Gutierrez. (So you see, Virginia, not all friars are bad people.)

While the Visayas is not normally in the route of my research, I was drawn to the descriptions of the flora and fauna described by Alcina, and found the descriptions of the looks and customs of the Visayans even more engaging. What makes the work significant is that we seem to have changed little since 1668. Visayans then and Filipinos today are still concerned with their hair and skin color. Alcina could even be the source of that TV commercial about a whitening soap, where a dark baby is brought to baptism and the priest gets surprised that the parents are so fair:

"Their hair is black; however, sometimes due to nature's whim, one sees some red-haired natives of white complexion and with some reddish specks as if they were Flemish. Some years ago, I baptized a child who was so blonde and white and with blue eyes, together with other similar characteristics, as if he had been born in Holland. The parents were very brown and free from any immoral suspicion, due to the fact that they lived in an out-of-the-way place and without any contact with white people; the mother was ugly and had no mixture of foreign blood… Similarly, a woman in Manila had in her home a girl, born of kaffir parentage, with the same characteristics. Both had poor sight in the daytime because of their very blue color."

The eminent anthropologist F. Landa Jocano once told me that if you read the 16th-century, contact-period, Spanish accounts of the Philippines and Filipinos, you would see similarities between our time and theirs. Hair is a good example because we have so many shampoo and conditioners being advertised today. He suggested mining these old accounts not only to understand ourselves but also to help in the marketing of certain products:

"[Women's hair] receive [more] attention than any other part of the body. Often they would permit it to grow so long that it would sometimes touch the ground; it's so thick that they would bunch it up. They take extreme care in keeping it clean and well combed, washing it many times a year with some bark of a tree which acts like soap. They treat it with various types of fragrant oils, of which the most common is sesame. They say it makes the hair grow better and also kills the lice. [The women] perfume it with flowers and aromatic herbs, while the principalias massage it with civet, ambergris and musk, so that they always have a pleasant scent."

Alcina found men who wore their hair long "effeminate" and even cited St. Paul who "characterized [long hair as] highly improper." But it was the women and their coiffure that he described in detail. I was surprised that Visayans already used false hair over 400 years ago:

"Many of them have a curl which they wear in ringlets about the forehead without any irons or instruments [hair pins]. They tie up the hair with some gracefulness at the back of the head, rather than high on the crown and in a rose-like fashion almost as large as the head itself. They take great delight in making it bigger and bigger; so that rare is a woman who does not keep adding a mass of false hair [into her own] so as to create a spiral-like effect (or rosettes). Although these hair arrangements do fit well, they cause a great strain on the hairline near the forehead and thereby bring about baldness to some of them even in their youth. And so, for the adornment which they so sought to add to their hair, they had to pay for it with eventual ugliness even if they want to hide it. Also, to this said rosette of hair, they added flowers and fragrant herbs, which they called *tagonbaisat*, which means 'something that adds to the beauty.' (This seems to be a habitual weakness of all women. Even these women in this unpolished civilization were tainted with it, for no matter how uncomely one may seem, there is always a strong penchant to appear beautiful)."

One has to be critical though, to see through Alcina's biases. Why should anyone be faulted for wanting to be beautiful? Seeing the Visayans through the eyes of a 17th-century Jesuit can be very refreshing.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Docents

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

"JELLYFISHES DON'T JAM," CARLINA QUIPPED WITH A straight face.

Carlina was this little elderly woman who had been assigned to guide our group around the Monterey Aquarium when I visited last February. She was a walking encyclopedia, ready to answer questions about the exhibits and the Aquarium itself, with a few jokes on the side like the jamming jellyfish.

That's not an easy job, when you consider the varieties of marine life they have in the Aquarium. But Carlina handled it like a breeze, whether explaining how tuna fish get heart attacks from too rich a diet, or the filtration processes for the different aquariums. We think of them mainly as tourist or museum guides, but some of these docents live up to the original Latin meaning of the word, which is "teacher."

I first encountered the term in the Netherlands, where a docent meant a professor. Then a few years ago, while touring a redwoods forest in California, I heard the term again, this time used to refer to the person who was guiding us on a walking tour of the woods. He knew everything about these giant trees, from the way they reproduce to how they gave the city of Palo Alto its name. (I could imagine the early settlers looking at the trees and gasping, "*Palo alto!*" That's Spanish for tall trees.)

Docents do all this without salaries, almost like a hobby. During the week, our redwoods forest docent earned a living as a computer programmer, while Carlina had long retired but still had the stamina to docent in the aquarium.

Ku Klux Katipunan

Impressed with the docents I met in the United States, I've often wondered if we had similar volunteers in the Philippines. I got my answer the other week when Ken Esguerra of the Ayala Museum called and asked if I could lecture at a training workshop for their museum docents.

I got extremely short notice, but I said yes right away, thrilled that we did have docents here. In the case of the Ayala Museum, these docents' main function is to guide people around the museum's famous dioramas, which give a brief but comprehensive overview of the history of the Philippines from the precolonial period to the present.

A docent needs to be ready to answer all kinds of questions. I've had a taste of these questions doing my own informal docent work with foreign friends whom I bring to the Ayala Museum. For example, one time, in front of a diorama depicting a secret Katipunan ritual, with its members in white hoods, one of my American visitors exclaimed with distress, "Oh dear, is that the Ku Klux Klan?"

It was easy explaining that the Ku Klux Klan never established a foothold here. More difficult was going into details about the Katipunan, starting with its kilometric full name. You give it a try: Kataastaasang Kagalanggalangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan.

History's stories

Like docents elsewhere, the Ayala Museum's volunteers work out of a love for the museum. They're asked to put in at least four hours a month, whether as guides or as researchers. In exchange, they get free admission to the museum, discounts at the shop and invitations to all the museum events.

I think, though, that their greatest perk is the teaching and learning experiences. To teach, docents need to keep learning, and the museum gives a good head start with the training workshop.

INQUIRER columnist Manolo Quezon, who handles much of the docent training, briefed me right before the workshop, and explained that the training wasn't meant so much to give facts and figures than to help the docents to think differently about history itself and make it more alive and relevant. I watched as he tried to do this with the docents themselves, asking them to share what they knew about the origins of their surnames and their hometowns.

I tried to do something similar with the pre-colonial period, getting them to think about the stories behind each of the dioramas. For example, I reminded them that when there's trade, there are all kinds of social interactions, people learning about each other's cultures and borrowing words for the supernatural as well as for the mundane, such as food. Trade lubricated the borrowing of words from Arabic, Javanese, Malay, Chinese, and that includes terms to describe the feelings hosts and visitors had. (Here's one example I didn't use in Ayala: the word "*mahal*" is imported, and I don't think we adopted it in the context of trading alone.)

Columnists and docents

We need to train docents throughout the country. I am certain even the smallest and most remote of our towns already have potential docents. Elderly people are already telling and retelling their stories to their captive audiences, meaning their grandchildren, so why not get them to do this for the town's visitors as well?

In Palawan, I once visited a mangrove area with local residents serving as guides and explaining the flora and fauna. I felt the tour was a bit too mechanical, too facts-and-figures in its approach, but it was a good start.

I guess in a way columnists like Manolo and myself find affinity with docents because doing a column is one variation on docent work. We get paid for our columns, but beyond the writing, we often put in much time and effort for research, for interviewing people, for finding ways to transform learning into a fun process. That's a docent's work.

Docents, and columnists, work with a sense of mission. When I have American visitors, I stay longer with the dioramas depicting the Filipino-American war, talking about the hardships Filipinos went through, as well as the anti-imperialist movement in the United States, which included the likes of Mark Twain. A recent visitor said sorry, she had not known about that war, and then lamented, "How sad that we're repeating our mistakes—this time in Iraq." (The regular docents told me they've also had Japanese visitors apologizing for World War II, completely with the bowing.)

But docents should be more than glorified tourist guides for foreigners. Even more importantly, the work of a docent is to bridge the generations among Filipinos. There's much docents can do—organizing heritage tours, eating tours, nature tours—and we should be doing this with our own hometowns, retrieving the knowledge from older people and passing this on to the young. Each child, who is fortunate to have a good docent, will remember the stories for life, taking away insights that will give him or her a better sense of who we are as a people.

Nature watch

Try to visit the UP Diliman campus this weekend. The fire trees (also sometimes called flame trees) are beginning to bloom. If you're lucky, you should be able to catch the sunflowers we planted for our new graduates.

A tree watch could also be combined with a bird watch. Mike Lu of the Wild Bird Society texted me the other day about how, in their neighborhood, the regal fire trees seem to succeed quite well in calling in the birds. One of his neighbors has spotted, among others, kingfishers, woodpeckers and *kulasisi* (the winged type).

Insensitivity to 'scared' women

THE COLUMN, "THAT BOGUS DOCTOR," of Rina Jimenez-David (PDI, 4/23/06) really struck home. I am ashamed to say that I am one of the more than 560,000 women a year who are misled about hysterectomy. Worse than that, I allowed my ovaries to be removed.

The medical terminology for this is female castration, yet you never hear it spoken in polite society. It's in the medical journals and textbooks, but it is deliberately not used with patients for fear of "scaring" them. Well, women should be scared. We all know what the word castration means for the males of any species, including humans. We are also aware of the personality changes, health issues, loss of energy and most certainly, the sexual changes that removing the gonads (castration) brings to males.

Therefore, because the ovaries are the female gonads (the real medical term), can anyone tell me how it is possible, in this day and age, for women to be kept so ill-informed of the consequences of removing them?

I am bringing this matter up because polite society's "shame" to talk about it has led millions of women to suffer in silence and kept them from speaking out about their post-operative "problems." The few who do dare to speak out or question authority are promptly brushed aside by the medical profession in general.

In my case, hysterectomy has been completely devastating to my overall health, work, family and sex life. I have discovered, quite by accident, nearly 20 other women in my area who feel they, too, were victimized by the same doctor. Each woman I spoke with said this doctor expressed surprise and disbelief when they tried to tell him how they felt. But the doctor is unfazed, in total denial of any harm done, and he continues to have a thriving practice.

What most people do not realize is that there is no "system" in place looking out for women like us and women will remain vulnerable to this epidemic of outdated, unresearched, harmful and unnecessary method of surgery until we become truly informed and demand safer alternatives.

David's column on "That bogus doctor," helped break the silence that kept women in the dark for so long. She helped educate women about the serious risks of hysterectomy and about the safer, less drastic treatments they should be demanding from their health care providers. On behalf of all the women who I hope will never follow in my footsteps, I thank Rina Jimenez-David.

—TESS HOFF,
TheArTess@verizon.net

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Who are not paying their taxes honestly?

IN A LETTER PUBLISHED LAST APRIL 5, Roland Rodriguez disparaged the Filipinos who want Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo out (all 65 percent of them) as "non-taxpayers, power-hungry politicians, turncoats and deposed presidents and ex-presidents who have nothing better to do."

Now that's funny. I believe I'm dutifully paying my taxes and I do want GMA out.

My college-educated friends want GMA out. My high school-graduate friends who work as construction workers, waiters and office assistants—who, by the way, get their hard-earned wages minus withholding taxes—want GMA out. Believe it or not, Filipinos who want to stay put in the Philippines and those who have no opportunity to leave this country want GMA out. They may not want to disturb the status quo for fear of unpredictable consequences and worse alternatives. But they do want GMA out.

Rodriguez accused us of having been "paid to go against the President with tax money or 'earnings' from corrupt and greedy politicians." Where is the money? God knows I need it now to pay for our ever-rising electricity and water bills.

But wait, what about the Filipinos who want her to stay in office (the 35 percent)? Are they paying taxes honestly? Look at the traditional politicians around her led by Jose de Venecia and her supporters like Jose Pidal.

How could Rodriguez come up with his conclusions when he is not even in this country? But, of course, Rodriguez has spare cash to go some place else and escape the hard life in this sinking republic, which I will always be proud to call my home, but which he is glad to be out of.

I know that those who live along railroads and riverbanks, like the rest of the 65 percent of Filipinos, have dreams as grand as Rodriguez's. Except that we prefer—for many it is the only option—to strive to make this land a better place to live in. I know this is a harder choice. But it's worth a shot. My country is always worth another try.

Rodriguez asked, "Why discredit the leader?" I thought I heard GMA say "I'm sorry" for having discredited herself (no help needed there) by calling an election official during the elections. Her lack of *delicadeza* to step down discredits her even more every day that she clings to power. And Rodriguez urged, "Let the President do her job." Of course! Yes, I will support whoever is in Malacañang provided he or she won the presidency fair and square. More than 65 percent of Filipinos know GMA did not.

—JAMES MICHAEL QUIZON,
breakingpoint8@yahoo.com

The parents' duty

ELEUTERIO ARCOS ASKED IN HIS LETTER: "With a crisis racking our country, can teachers still produce good leaders?" (PDI, 4/27/06) He also noted that it "is now torture for a teacher to spend energy, day after day, year after year, making children understand and appreciate the things that really count in life, or trying to inculcate in them the values of honesty, integrity, obedience and truth.

"Have teachers, perhaps, failed to teach our young the proper values?"

While children may be spending more time in school with their teachers than at home with their parents, it is nevertheless the parents who have the greater responsibility of educating their offspring and inculcating in them the right values and morals.

The primary duty of training children in the way they should go and be (and the labor of love that comes with that duty) falls squarely on the shoulders of parents. Neither teachers nor religious leaders should take that role, and neither should parents relegate that responsibility.

—OSCAR RAGUS,
oscar_ragus@yahoo.com

Illegitimate ruler

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

THE "GLORIAGATE" CRISIS WILL NOT END as long as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo continues to arrogate power unto herself. There will always be thousands or hundreds of thousands or even millions of unheard voices your pages cannot hope to accommodate.

As an individual there may not be much that I can do to end this crisis. But I will not stop speaking. Rather, I will continue to join the clamor for Ms Arroyo to resign.

I will continue to encourage those who share my views not to waver and to help convince others of the nobility of this undertaking. I hope to awaken the latent patriotism among my countrymen.

As an individual I can join the chorus of the untold many whose collective voices will gather strength, grow in number and ring out louder so that someday our united cries will reverberate throughout the land. I hereby ask civil servants to exercise civil disobedience by not rendering service to this illegitimate ruler.

I implore the conscientious members of the military and the police to refuse to take orders from this power-grabber who is merely using them for her and her family's ulterior and personal objectives.

I pray to Almighty God to intervene as He did at Edsa People Power I and II and prevent Filipinos from killing one another and ultimately help select citizens with moral ascendancy to govern and impose law and order in this place we call Pilipinas Nating Mahal.

God bless the Philippines.—**Ramon Mayuga, Germany (via e-mail)**

* * *

Everybody's wish is to end this crisis. It's not GMA who is in crisis, it's the millions of Filipinos.

Why is it that every Filipino politician who gets hold of power never wants to let go?

In the United Kingdom, David Blunket, the former Home Office secretary, resigned one of the powerful positions because of a controversy around his name (because of a Filipina nanny whose visa application he was said to speed up).—**Prexy Simbol (via e-mail)**

* * *

The political crisis will start to wane once the media acknowledge that they are also at fault, and that they can do much to ease the political tension. It is very noticeable that little good news is put in the headlines, while the bad news is kept there for days.

We are moving forward but we continue to be derailed by sensationalized bad news.—**Dan Nino (via e-mail)**

* * *

No doubt, the majority of Filipinos want President Arroyo out. However, she cannot be ousted because of a lack of a better replacement. In my view, the only solution is to find "the one" who enjoys the confidence and trust of the majority. Float "the one" and see how fast the transition will happen.

Surely, we don't need an oracle to know who is "the one."—**Emmy Masola (via e-mail)**

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Group says Sierra Madre rape goes on

By Blanche Rivera

ILLEGAL LOGGING CONTINUES TO THREATEN half of the country's remaining forest cover despite a logging moratorium being enforced in selected areas, an international environmentalist group said.

Greenpeace said that, in an aerial survey it did for six months, illegal logging continues to plague the Northern Sierra Madre mountain range in Isabela.

Environment advocates also called on government to put a stop to logging in the Quezon province side of the Sierra Madre.

The Sierra Madre Natural Park, which has been declared as a protected area, covers 287,861 hectares or nearly half of the 700,000-ha remaining old growth forest cover in the country.

"Corruption is a key driver of illegal logging as it undermines all efforts to curb illegal logging and associated illegal trade," the report, titled "Sierra Madre: Under Threat" said.

Most wood furniture producers believe that anti-illegal logging measures are means for environment officials to extort money from them, according to the report.

The wood producers told Greenpeace researchers that they had to establish good relations with personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in order to be included in the bidding process for confiscated logs.

Confiscated logs are sometimes used by the DENR as payment for the agency's debts or are used in exchange deals with companies and other government agencies through memoranda of agreement, Greenpeace said.

Furniture producers also pay grease money at every inspection post, where the legal documentation of wood products that are being transported is checked, according to the report, quoting a small scale furniture producer.

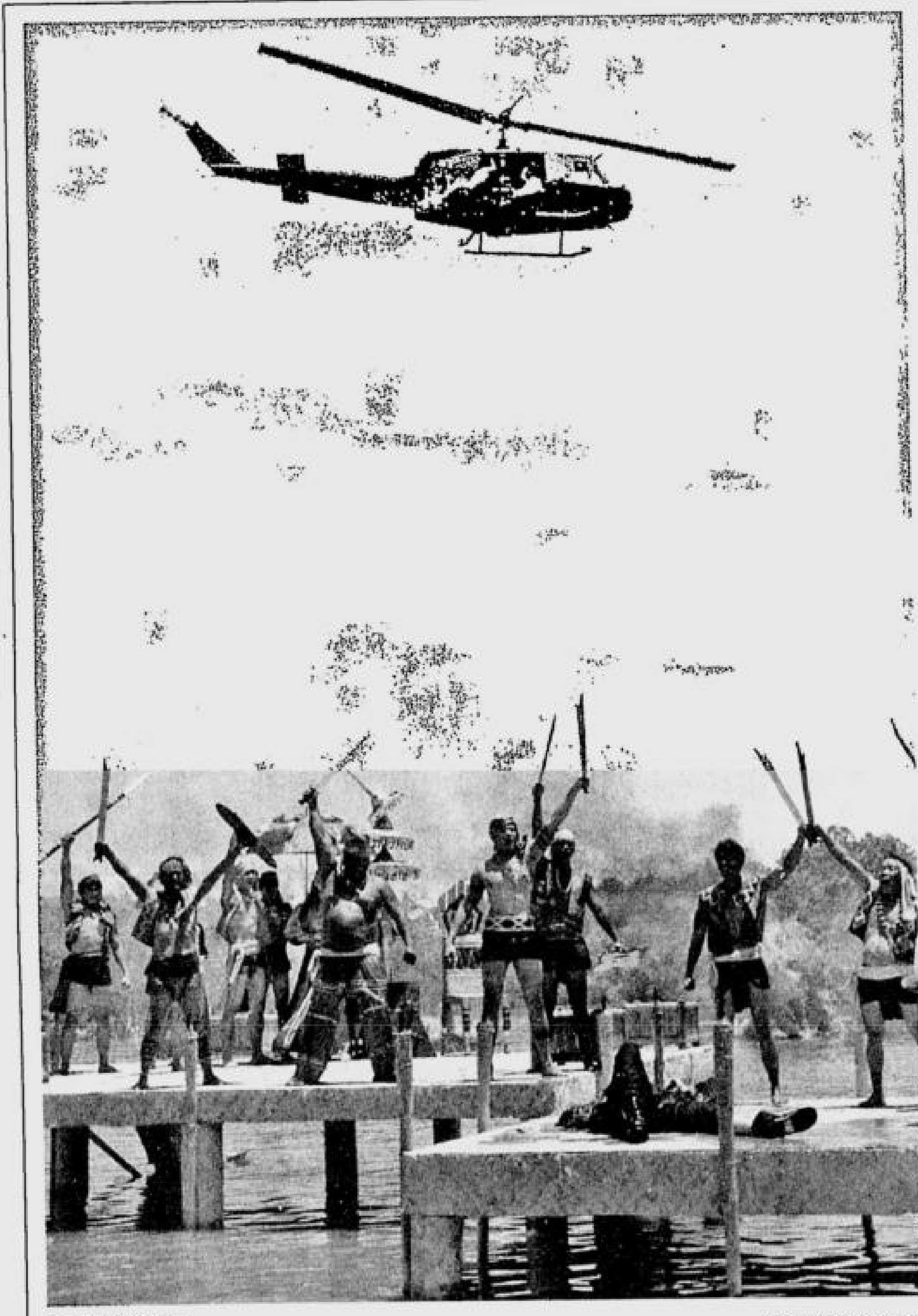
There are more than 50 inspection posts on the national highway from Cagayan to Manila, the most frequent destination of the wood products. The grease money is never lower than P200 at every inspection point, the report said.

The Greenpeace research team photographed logged-out areas along river banks and mountain slopes, as well as logging roads, camps, flitches and cultivated agricultural areas within the Sierra Madre Natural Park.

Of the nine sites surveyed, pieces of evidence of illegal logging were secured from five sites—Abuan River, Ambabok/Catallangan, Dungsog Lake, Pagsungayan, and Dugud/Disabungan.

"We demand that government effectively implement existing laws and confront corruption," Greenpeace campaign director Von Hernandez said in a press briefing yesterday.

The DENR declared a logging moratorium in 14 of the 16 regions in the country and cancelled numerous logging concessions following the 2004 flash floods which killed and displaced thousands of families in southern and eastern Luzon.



TRIUMPH LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

A helicopter hovers over a group of actors who portrayed Filipino tribesmen who defeated an expedition force led by Ferdinand Magellan at the start of the Spanish colonization of the Philippines. The battle won by Lapu-Lapu was reenacted during a visit to Mactan by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Negros execs say province opposed to STL

By Carla P. Gomez
and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE NEGROS OCcidental provincial board declared that the provincial government would continue to be against Small Town Lottery and will oppose any move to operate it in the province.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP), in a unanimous resolution Wednesday, made clear its stand against STL after William Medici, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Visayas-Mindanao manager, announced in Cebu last week that Negros Occidental was the first local government unit (LGU) in the Visayas that invited STL to operate in its area of jurisdiction.

The resolution, authored by board member Francis Gerard Tuvilla, however said there was no truth to Medici's claim, which was reported in the INQUIRER on May 1, headlined "Negros Occidental opens door to small town lottery."

The statements made by Medici are "inaccurate and irresponsibly made as it is contrary to the truth and does not reflect the stand and sentiment of the provincial board," the resolution said.

"There is a need to deny the erroneous news as well as to denounce in no uncertain terms the irresponsibility of William Medici," the resolution said.

The resolution demanded that Medici rectify the erroneous statements and make a public apology to the provincial board of Negros Occidental.

Medici, sought for comment yesterday, said he just presumed that the Negros Occidental provincial board has passed the resolution inviting STL because the PCSO Board has already approved the operation of STL for Negros Occidental.

Medici said his presumption was based on the fact that, under the PCSO guidelines, the PCSO would only approve the operation of STL in a locality once the provincial board or city council had passed a resolution approving STL operations.

"I just presumed that the provincial board had passed a resolution because the PCSO board had already approved the operation of STL in Negros Occidental. If that's the case, then I don't know who made the representation to the PCSO board," Medici said.

Asked what would happen now that the PCSO board had approved the operation of STL for Negros Occidental, Medici said the STL operator would have to wait until the provincial board passes a resolution supporting its operation.

The Negros Occidental provincial board, however, said that as early as October 1988, it had already passed a resolution banning and declaring illegal the operation of STL in Negros Occidental.

On Oct. 16, 1991, the SP passed another resolution opposing the resumption of STL in Negros Occidental.

Another resolution, authored by board member Reynaldo Depasucat, that was passed by the SP Wednesday, demanded that the INQUIRER publicly apologize to the provincial board for publishing the "false report" that it was embracing the operation of STL in the province.

Meanwhile, Manapla Mayor Manuel Escalante, president of the League of Municipalities of Negros Occidental, yesterday said the league had passed a resolution about three weeks ago inviting the PCSO to brief the mayors on the STL.

Boiled cassava downs 12, mostly children

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—TWELVE PERSONS, mostly children from Caubian Island, Lapulapu City were hospitalized on Wednesday after eating boiled cassava, the police said.

Insp. Frank Baguio, chief of the Lapulapu City police's homicide section, said the victims were members of a clan on Caubian Island and ate the boiled cassava for lunch on Wednesday.

Dr. Allan Monteclar, chief of the pediatric ward at Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMMC) where most of the victims were brought, said the patients were victims of cassava poisoning.

Monteclar said it was possible that the boiled cassava was not prepared well and its poisonous contents were not extracted before it was cooked.

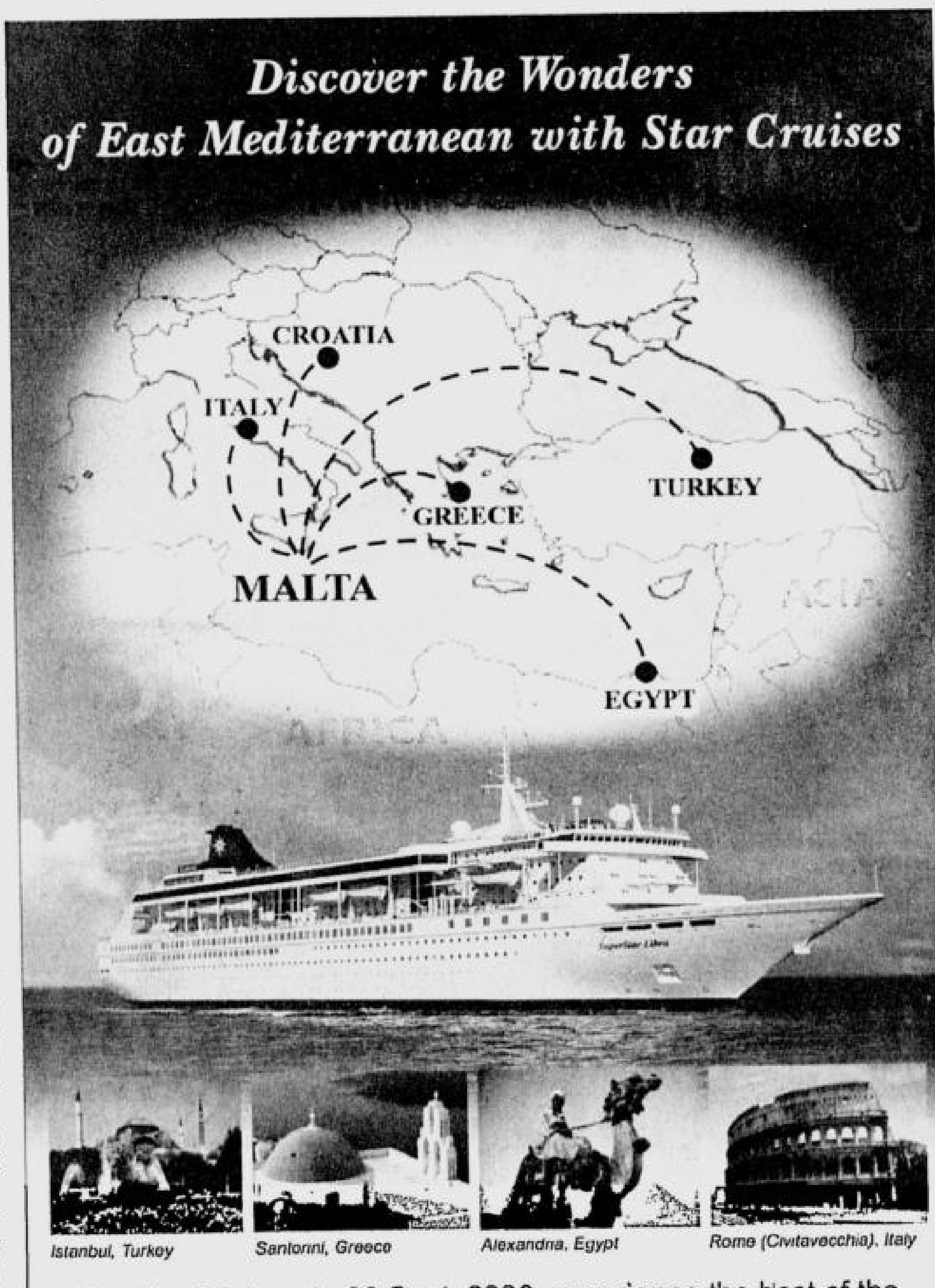
When eaten raw and with poor preparation, cassava tubers can kill because it is very poisonous. Cassava tubers contain cyanide that has to be removed to make it edible, health officials said in the wake of last year's Mabini food poisoning tragedy.

(Cassava poisoning was initially believed to have killed 27 schoolchildren and downed over 100 others in Mabini town in Bohol in March last year until authorities found that it was caused by a pesticide that accidentally contaminated the cooking pan used to fry the cassava fritters eaten by the victims.)

Baguio said seven of the victims, who suffered abdominal pains, vomiting and headaches, were brought to VSMMC based in Cebu City, while the other five, who just suffered headaches, were brought to the Lapulapu City District Hospital (LCDH).

Baguio said the victims started to feel abdominal pains and headaches at past 7 p.m.

Monteclar said the hospital had attended to the patients to ensure that they would not suffer from dehydration. It is up to the Department of Health to investigate the incident, he said.



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7 NIGHTS MAGICAL ITALY III

SAILING DATES	RATES	ITINERARIES
27 July 2006 7N Magical Italy III	FROM USD 1529 on Inside Stateroom, DB (Deck 3)	Rome (Civitavecchia) – La Spezia (Florence/Pisa) - Olbia – Naples (Capri/Pompeii) – Valletta – Rome (Civitavecchia)

7 NIGHTS MALTA AND THE AEGEAN I

SAILING DATES	RATES	ITINERARIES
23 September 2006 7N Malta & the Aegean I	FROM USD 1529 on Inside Stateroom, DB (Deck 3)	Istanbul, Turkey – Izmir, Turkey – Valletta, Malta – Athens (Piraeus), Greece – Istanbul, Turkey

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Release of 5 farmers held incommunicado urged

LUCENA CITY—MILITANT LEADERS yesterday called for the immediate release of five farmers who were arrested in Tagaytay City and held incommunicado on suspicion they were members of the New People's Army.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano said the rights of the farmers, whom he called Tagaytay 5, were blatantly violated by policemen.

Mariano made the call after reports quoted Cavite Rep. Jesus Crispin "Boying" Remulla and Cavite police intelligence chief Supt. Rodel Sermonia as saying that the arrested men were indeed leaders of the Kalipunan ng mga Magbubukid sa Kabite (Kamagsasaka-Ka).

"I hope Boying and the provincial intelligence officer's statements will pave the way for the immediate release of the 'Tagaytay 5' from arbitrary detention," Mariano, concurrent chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said in a statement sent to the INQUIRER.

The five arrested farmers are Axel Alejandro Pinpin, Aries Sarmiento, Riel Custodio, Michael Masayes, and Rico Ybañez.

They were arrested by the police and military in Tagaytay City last Friday.

He said this was a brazen violation of the farmers' right to due process.

On Monday, the police reported the arrest in Tagaytay of six suspected NPA members who allegedly planned to sabotage Labor Day rallies in Metro Manila.

Remulla said three of the five arrested men were legitimate peasant leaders in his district.

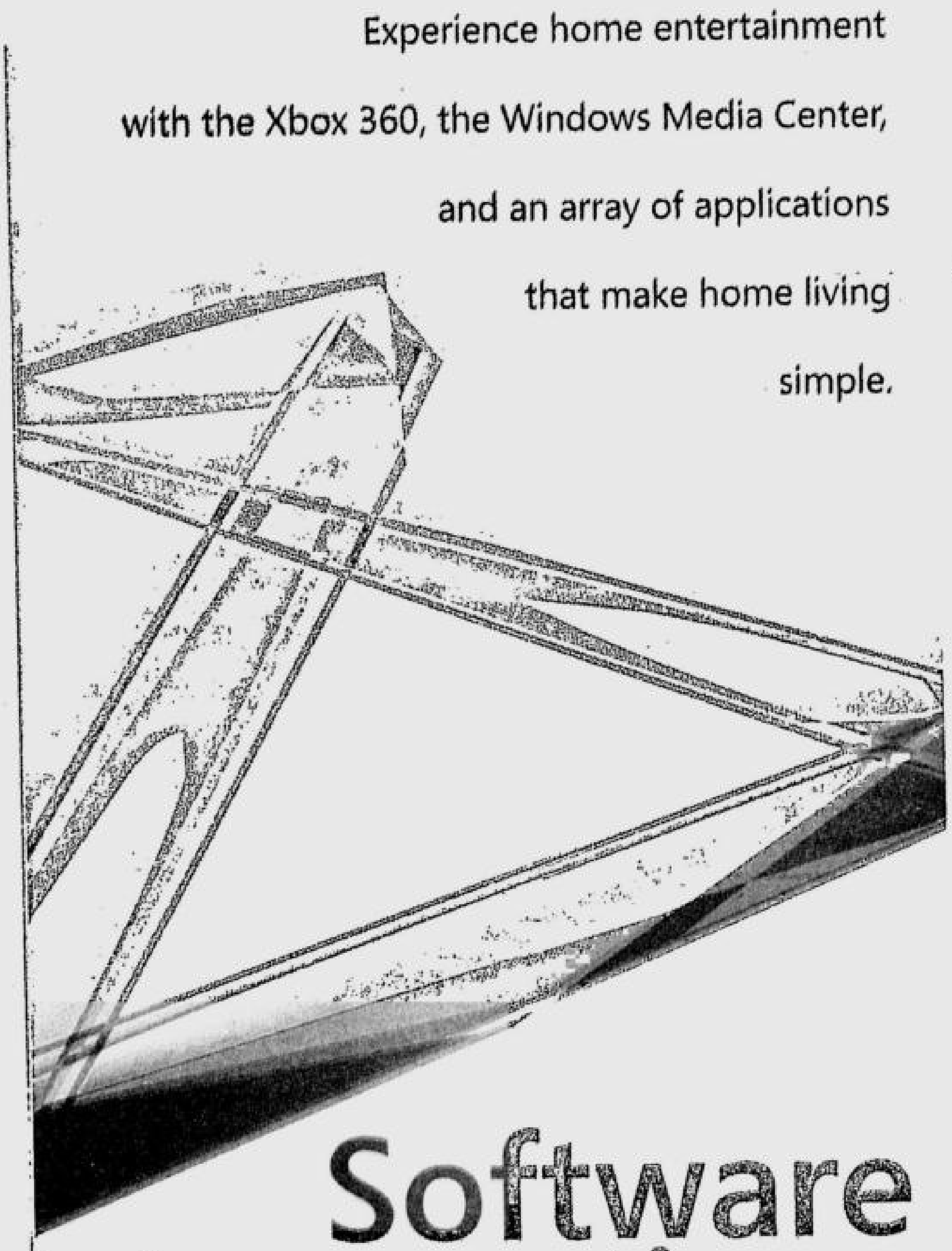
The Cavite lawmaker also raised doubts over the report that Pinpin, Custodio and Sarmiento were arrested after attending a meeting with other communist rebels in Tagaytay.

Sermonia also said the arrested men were indeed peasant leaders.

KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos also asked the police to immediately release the suspects.

In a text message, Ramos said there was no Marvin Galang among the group when arrested, refuting the revised police report that said six were arrested and not five.

"That Marvin Galang is now part of the police plan to muddle the investigation. We suspect that the fellow is another military asset out to weave tales to implicate the five," Ramos said. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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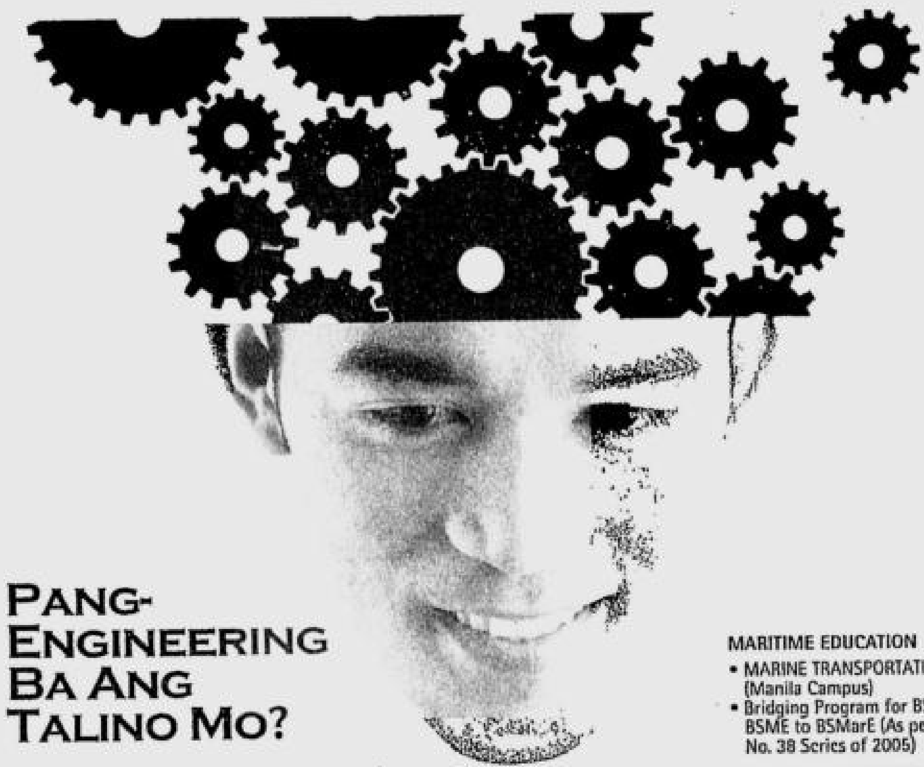

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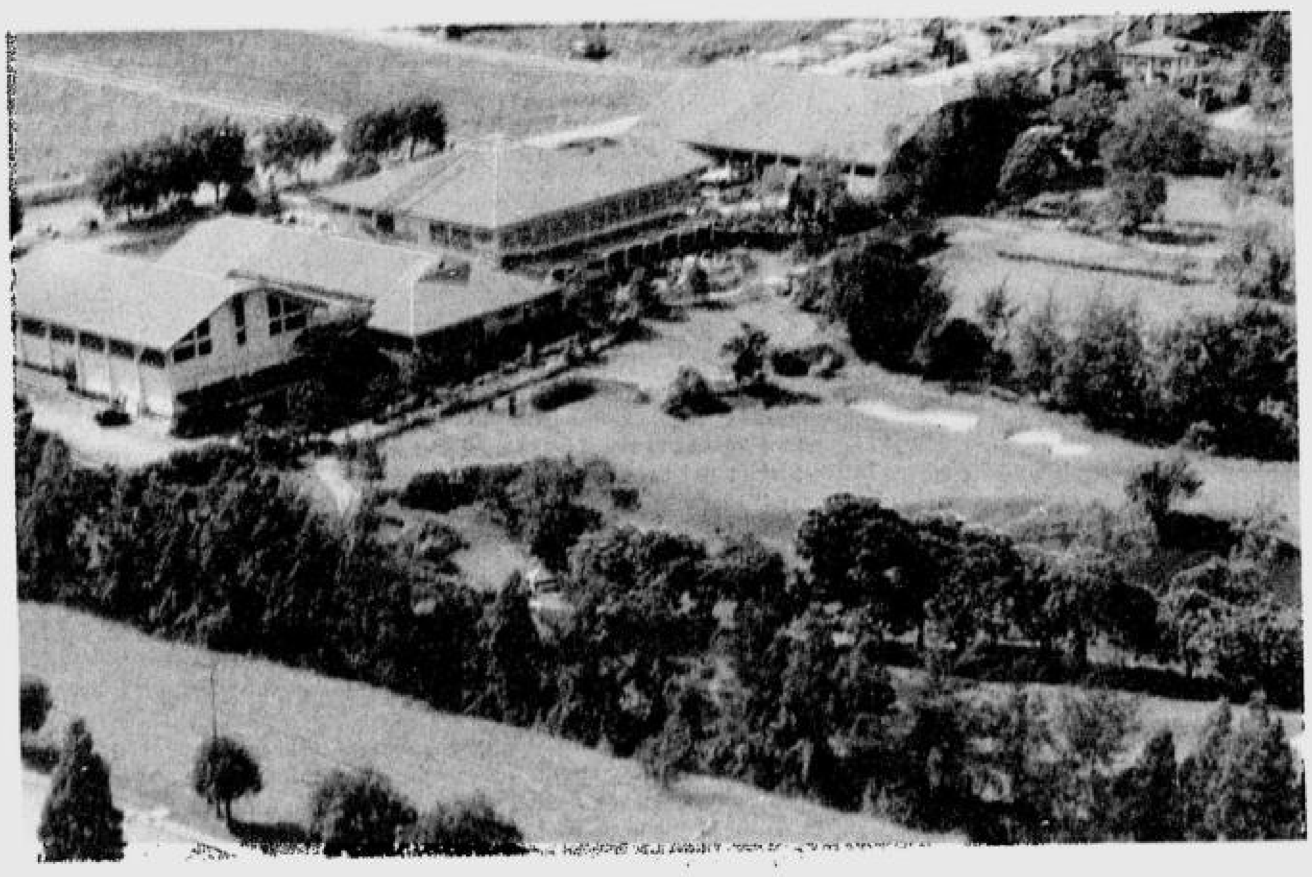

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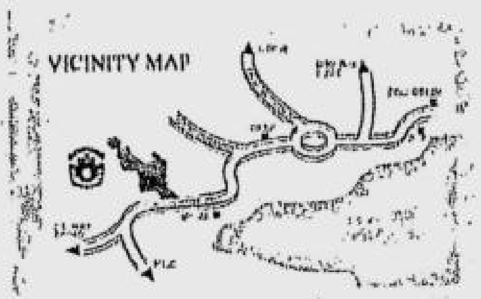

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Gov, 3 execs named in overprice of medicines

NABUNTURAN, COMPOSTELA Valley—Gov. Jose Caballero and three other officials here were being linked to the alleged overpriced medicines that the provincial government bought in 2004.

During an investigation conducted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan on Wednesday, Brenda Bretana, a pharmacist at the Montevista District Hospital, said Gov. Jose Caballero, provincial administrator Anesio Ranario and Dr. Eulalio Dujali, Montevista District Hospital chief, authorized the purchase of 51 items of medicines from the San Marina Laboratory Inc. in Davao City, which were overpriced by "300 to 1,200 percent."

Joel Reterbo, provincial budget officer, was also named in the alleged conspiracy.

Bretana cited as example the purchase of 250 milligrams paracetamol tablets, for which the provincial government paid P179.50 each. She said the prevailing unit cost was only P15 per tablet.

Board member Arturo Uy said in the purchase of 500 mg paracetamol tablets, the provincial government paid P506.50 per tablet when the medicine could be bought for P28.

"This is not only illegal and disadvantageous to the provincial government but highly immoral," Uy said.

But Caballero said he has nothing to do with the irregularity and said he even doubted if it happened.

"While it is true that I affixed my signature on the purchase order, it was purely a ministerial matter," he said.

Caballero said the effort to drag his name into the scandal was the work of his detractors.

He vowed to "file a libel case against anyone who would try to ruin my reputation."

Bretana said Dujali had previously scolded her when she confronted him about the overpricing.

She said Caballero also did the same.

"Why are you hostile to me?" Bretana quoted the governor as saying. *Bert Pacate, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ONE of the busted tires lie on runway of the Zamboanga International Airport. PDI PHOTO

Zambo airport reopens after plane towed out

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AUTHORITIES reopened the Zamboanga International Airport yesterday after the Manila-bound Cebu Pacific plane that suffered flat tires was towed out of the runway.

The plane, which was carrying 96 passengers from Davao City, was touching down here to pick up more passengers for Manila when its two rear tires burst.

None of the passengers were hurt.

Duane Mandin, Cebu Pacific Zamboanga branch officer, said an investigation was needed because the tires were new.

The incident caused the cancellation of all incoming and outgoing flights here.

Vice Mayor Maria Isabelle Climaco said a total of 1,249 passengers and 14 flights were cancelled.

Celso Bayabos, chief of the local Air Transportation Office (ATO), said Cebu Pacific technicians from Manila had replaced the busted tires and had towed the DC-9 plane away from the runway.

The eight-man team of Cebu Pacific technicians arrived here on board an Air Force Nomad plane from Cotabato City with two spare tires.

"All outgoing and incoming flights can now resume," Bayabos said.

Climaco said at least six flights out of the city were expected to ferry out the stranded passengers.

Mandin said they already asked the ATO to allow the stuck plane to resume flight. *Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Suit filed over Subic demolition

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—ABOUT 70 FAMILIES on Wednesday filed illegal demolition and harassment complaints against the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and the police following last week's clearing of a Zambales coastal village leased out by the SBMA as site for a shipyard.

Zambales Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II brought to Undersecretary Percival Chavez, chair of the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor, the copies of the complaints of settlers at Sitio Agusuhin in Barangay Cawag in Subic town.

Their houses were torn down from April 29 to May 1 in time for the groundbreaking rites of the Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co. (HHIC) on May 2.

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Lacbain said the settlers were protesting not to stop the shipyard project but to protect their homes.

"The affected residents are also supporting the Korean shipyard project and are fully aware of the benefits that will accrue to the country," said Lacbain in his letter.

"The affected residents are only demanding ... just compensation, acceptable relocation site and livelihood opportunities," he said.

In March, the South Korean firm signed a $1-billion lease agreement with the SBMA for the construction of a shipyard at Agusuhin, a public land within the jurisdiction of the SBMA.

In their affidavits, the settlers claimed that SBMA forest rangers and members of the police's Special Action Forces pushed through with the demolition although negotiations were still ongoing and they have yet to receive payments for damages or get clear assurances for relocation and livelihood.

Lacbain said this violated President Macapagal-Arroyo's Executive Order No. 152 in relation to Republic Act 7279 or the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992.

Lacbain said SBMA Deputy Administrator Ramon Agregado justified the rush by saying that the President was expected to visit the site and further delays needed to be avoided to stop the pullout of HHIC.

Edgardo Pamintuan, chief of the Subic-Clark Alliance Development (SCAD) Office, said Ms Arroyo was not scheduled to grace the rites. Contrary to local reports, Pamintuan said Ms Arroyo had not made the clearing of houses a requirement for her attendance.

Pamintuan confirmed that HHIC earlier planned to withdraw because on top of already spending P50 million for the "disturbance compensation," the delay in the demolition slowed down the timetable to meet deadlines to deliver orders for four ships.

Pamintuan defended the SBMA, saying the compensation packages it facilitated—ranging from P25,000 to P900,000—were big considering that the settlers built houses on public lands.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In addition to the list earlier published on 23 March 2006 involving cancelled and delisted agencies the following companies do not have valid licenses to recruit landbased and seabased workers for overseas employment:

DELISTED AGENCIES (Agencies that failed to comply with the conditions for the grant of its license)

1. A-M Phil. Professional Services Corp.
2. Big Circle International Manpower Management Agency
3. Emmerl International Inc.
4. Jang International Promotions & Manpower Corporation
5. Mecprego International Inc.
6. Maritima de Manila MGM Systems Inc.
7. Princess Talent Center Production Inc.
8. Rising Sun Int'l. Human Resources Inc.
9. Starlink International Promotion Inc.
10. Studio 85 Promotions Inc.
11. Vitamin & Cebu Artists International Inc.

The public is encouraged to report to the POEA any recruitment activity conducted by the above-named entities.

HOTLINES : 722-1144 • 722-1155
E-MAIL : info@poea.gov.ph
Website : www.poea.gov.ph

Philippine Overseas Employment Agency

(PDI - May 5, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY
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IN RE : APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE OF FOREIGN AIR CARRIER'S PERMIT (FACP) UNDER THE LIBERALIZED CHARTER PROGRAM

HONGKONG EXPRESS AIRWAYS LIMITED,
Applicant.

CAB CASE NO. 28084

x--------------------------------------x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that **HONGKONG EXPRESS AIRWAYS LIMITED** has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) an application for the issuance of Foreign Air Carrier's Permit under the Liberalized Charter Program. The initial hearing of the above entitled case will be held on **17 May 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** at the Conference Room of the CAB, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing the applicant shall present its evidence.

The applicant is hereby required to have this Notice of Hearing published at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation and that copies of this notice and the application itself be served upon Philippine Airlines, Inc., Cebu Pacific Air, Air Philippines Corporation, Asian Spirit and CR Airways, Ltd., either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at least five (5) days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be proper under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this application on its merit.

Let a copy of this application and this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

21 April 2006
Pasay City, Philippines

MA. ELBEN SL. MORO
Hearing Officer

cc: **ATTY. ANTHONY T. ZAMORA**
Counsel for Applicant Hongkong Express Airways Ltd.
ZAMORA MIRAFLOR BRAVO & ASSOCIATES
Suite 707 Cityland 10 Tower I
Geronimo Street cor. Ayala Avenue North
Salcedo Village, Makati City

(PDI – April 28, May 5 & 12, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Negros Oriental
CITY OF BAYAWAN
SPECIALIZED BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
www.bayawancity.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bayawan, through its Specialized Bids and Awards Committee, invites prospective suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following project:

Bid Number	Name of Project/s	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Fund
06-041B	Labor & materials for various fabrication and installation for the Construction of Integrated Bus Terminal	P8,293,297.27	General Fund

Project Location/Delivery Area : Bayawan City Warehouse
Contract Duration : 12 working days upon receipt of Purchase Order

The complete schedules of bidding activities are as follows

ACTIVITY	DATE/S
Advertisement/Posting of the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to bid	May 5, 2006
Issuance of Bid Documents	May 8, 2006
Pre-bid Conference	May 12, 2006 (1:00 p.m.)
Deadline for the submission & Opening of Eligibility Requirements (for Non-Accredited Suppliers) & LOI for Accredited Suppliers (Specialized BAC Office)	May 25, 2006 (2:00 p.m.)
Deadline/Opening of Bids (Specialized BAC Office)	May 26, 2006 (10 00 a.m.)

Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Documents will be available for issuance at the Specialized BAC Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall Bldg., Bayawan City (Tel. (035) 531-0800) upon payment of the prescribed non-refundable fee.

Prospective Bidders shall duly accomplish eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals and submit the same in 2 (two) separate sealed envelopes on or before the date indicated above.

The Specialized Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to accept or reject all bids or part thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids considered most advantageous to the City Government of Bayawan.

(Sgd.) Atty. **VICTORIANO D. ALABASTRO**
Chairman, Specialized Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - May 5 & 12, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Surigao del Sur
Municipality of Cantilan
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

May 3, 2006

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education, has received an Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of P1,749 Million under Loan Agreement #PH-P200, towards the financing of the **Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP)** dated December 28, 1999. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments for the new construction of school buildings. In view hereof, the Government of the Philippines through the DepEd-SEDIP with the participation of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of the Municipality of Cantilan as implementor, hereinafter called the Agency, wishes to receive bids for the new construction of the following listed school buildings at **Cantilan National High School** located at Barangay Magasang, Cantilan, Surigao del Sur:

1) Two Storey Four Classroom Building with Science Laboratory, Faculty Room and Toilets
2) Two Storey Four Classroom Building with Library, Guidance Room and Toilets
3) Two Storey Six Classroom Building

Disbursement of the ODA loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans." No. Party other than the Department of Education shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claims to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, the Agency will take appropriate measures for finance. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as DepEd-SEDIP under contract funded with JBIC ODA loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:

1) Will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended fore award has engaged in Corrupt or Fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
2) Will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA loans if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract financed by JBIC ODA loans or other Japanese ODA.

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (CAB) - registered contractors or joint venture contractor, with PCAB License at least Medium A classification on Building. Prospective Bidders/Contractors shall meet the minimum qualifying criteria of three (3) years construction experience. The schedule of activities for the above listed projects is indicated below:

- Submission of Letter of Intent - May 9-18, 2006
- Issuance of Bid Documents - May 15-18, 2006
- Pre-Bid Conference - May 19, 2006 - 2:00 PM
- Re-Bid Opening - May 30, 2006 - 2:00 PM

All particulars relative to eligibility, bidding, evaluation of Bids, award of Contract and enforcement hereof shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A of RA 9184) otherwise known as the Government procurement Reform Act."

The BAC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility, or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract if, among others, there is evidence of collusion, including any act which restricts, suppresses or defeats competition, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

The BAC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnity the bidder(s) for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of its bids, or any obligation to inform the affected bidder(s) on the ground(s) of BAC action, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE A. MIRANDA**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Cantilan, Surigao del Sur

(PDI - May 5 & 12, 2006)

DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City
Tel. # 221-9400

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Davao City Water District, with the Approved Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum *(see schedule under 2)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under contracts as listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Davao City Water District now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following:

PACKAGE	DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget for the Contract	BID SECURITY (1% OF ABC)	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS
1	15,600 PCS - 1/2" WATER METERS	P 19,500,000.00	195,000.00	5,000.00
2	1 UNIT - AIR COMPRESSOR with 1 UNIT PAVEMENT BREAKER	900,000.00	9,000.00	1,000.00
3	12 UNITS STAINLESS STEEL WATER STORAGE TANK	533,997.00	5,340.00	1,000.00
4	12 UNITS - VARIOUS SIZES OF BUTTERFLY VALVE	636,900.00	6,369.00	1,000.00
5	3 UNITS VIBRATORY RAMMER	391,000.00	3,910.00	1,000.00
6	5 UNITS - CONDUCTIVITY / TDS/ SALINITY METER	400,000.00	4,000.00	1,000.00
7	4 UNITS - ELECTRIC ACTUATORS	440,000.00	4,400.00	1,000.00

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belongings to citizens of the Philippines. and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *Davao City Water District* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. up to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of non refundable fee in the amount *(stated in item no.2)*. The method of payment will be on Cash Basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *Davao City Water District* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference to all interested parties on ***May 26, 2006 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.*** at ***DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City.***
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before the *bidding scheduled time and date at 9:00 o'clock A.M.* All Bids must be accompanied by a ***Bid Security*** in the form of *Cash or Manager's check* in the amount *(stated in item no.2)*. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be at *the **DCWD BAC-A Secretariat Office, J.P. Laurel Ave., Bajada, Davao City** on the following schedule:*

PACKAGE No.	BIDDING SCHEDULE, TIME & DATE
1	June 7, 2006 @ 9:00 A.M.
2 & 3	June 7, 2006 @ 2:00 P.M.
4 & 5	June 8, 2006 @ 9:00 A.M.
6 & 7	June 8, 2006 @ 2:00 P.M.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9. The *Davao City Water District* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(PDI - May 5 & 12, 2006)

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LA40R7	Php 209,900	Php 22,000	Php 32,000	D820
LA46M51	Php 279,900	Php 28,000	Php 42,000	D820

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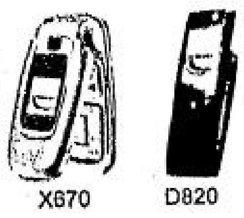

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SAMSUNG

Gov't parceling out 1,000 ha to Luisita farmers

From page A1

President's resignation.

This time, he said, the decision to deny the HLI appeal was made after Aquino announced her participation in STOP Cha-cha, the multisectoral campaign to thwart Malacañang-backed efforts to amend the Constitution.

"I want to believe that there's nothing political about this, but every time Cory (Aquino) does something, something happens to Luisita," Mendoza said.

4,000 farmers

At least 4,000 farmer-beneficiaries at Hacienda Luisita have been identified, but only the first batch will receive certificates of land ownership next month.

The area to be distributed comprises the first of four titles covering the entire estate.

The distribution is to be the highlight of the 18th anniversary of the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in June.

"For the first time in its ... colorful history, the program earns the kind of respect it rightly deserves, and it comes ... when the most contentious issue at hand—Hacienda Luisita—is finally resolved in favor of the Filipino people," Pangandaman said.

Hacienda Luisita is the second biggest landholding to be covered by CARP. (The biggest was the 10,000-hectare Yulo estate in Canlubang, Laguna.)

'Disturbing'

But Mendoza said it was "disturbing" that the DAR was making announcements in the media about the distribution of a portion of the estate when it had yet to finish the staff work.

He said such announcements would generate confusion and agitation among those who had not been chosen as beneficiaries.

"[Has the DAR] informed the parties that their rights to the converted lands, like the industrial park, will be subverted? I hope that if the DAR does this, we will not be haunted by [its] actions later on," he said.

Mendoza said the HLI was only after two things—following the rule of law and ensuring that the distribution would be done in a proper and transparent manner.

According to the PARC, the decision to revoke the 16-year-old stock distribution option at Hacienda Luisita was made because the lives of the farmers had not improved, and because the estate management had violated certain provisions, including fragmenting the original land area and failing to give the farmer-stockholders their share of the earnings.

WORKERS harvest sugarcane at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac. RAFFY LERMA

IN THE KNOW

HACIENDA LUISITA is a 6,000-hectare contiguous property in Tarlac covering Tarlac City and the towns of Concepcion and La Paz.

Its size is about the same as the combined areas of the cities of Makati (2,986 hectares) and Pasig (3,100 hectares).

Of the 6,000 hectares, 4,915 were classified in 1988 as agricultural land, representing the area covered by the stock distribution option.

The first 1,000 hectares to be distributed are equivalent to about 19 Luneta Parks (Luneta covers 52.8 hectares) or slightly smaller than the municipality of San Juan (1,072 hectares) in Metro Manila.

Hacienda Luisita was originally part of the landholdings of the Compania General Tabacos de Filipinas, or Tabacalera.

The estate was named after Luisa, the wife of Don Antonio Lopez, who headed Tabacalera when it acquired Luisita in 1882.

The Huk rebellion in 1956 led the Spanish owners of Tabacalera to sell the Central Azucarera de Tarlac and Luisita.

In 1958, the Cojuangcos acquired the sugar mill and the estate through a loan from the Government Service Insurance System and a dollar loan from the Manufacturer's Trust of New York, which was guaranteed by the Central Bank of the Philippines.

The property is now owned and managed by Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) which was incorporated on Aug. 23, 1988.

A year earlier, President Corazon Aquino issued Presidential Proclamation 131 and Executive Order 22, which spelled out her Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Tarlac Development Corp., a subsidiary of Jose Cojuangco and Sons Inc., the holding company of the Cojuangco family, owns 70 percent of HLI.

The remaining 30 percent is owned by beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law. ***PDI Research***

US Senate urges GMA to resolve media murders

From page A1

established by the UN General Assembly and is observed annually on May 3. This year's theme is "Media and Good Governance."

"Democracy depends on the free flow of information to the public, which depends on a press free to do its work without government intimidation," said Lugar, a frequent Manila visitor since the martial law days of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The Philippines is ranked by the Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontières (Reporters Without Borders) as the second-most dangerous country for journalists after Iraq.

Figures compiled by the INQUIRER showed that since the dismantling in 1986 of the Marcos dictatorship, 99 journalists had been killed in the Philippines, including 42 over the past five years.

Albert del Rosario, the Philippine ambassador to Washington, told the Senate committee that of the 33 cases that came to the panel's attention, Manila was able to account, at least initially, for 31 cases recorded in the 2000-2005 period.

15 killings under trial

Of those 31, he said, 15 killings had been investigated, resulting in the filing of cases which are currently undergoing trial.

Fourteen are still being investigated while two cases were dismissed due to non-appearance of witnesses and for failure of the prosecution to present strong evidence, Del Rosario said.

Lugar requested a written update on the status of the unresolved cases in August and urged Del Rosario to advise the Senate committee as soon as any convictions were recorded in the trials currently under way.

In Manila, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that Ms Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia had set up a special fund to pay for tips that would lead to identifying those behind the attacks on journalists.

"All the authorities, particularly the PNP (Philippine National Police), are doing everything necessary to address these different cases of attacks on our journalists," said Bunye.

The latest attack took place on Tuesday night in Mandaluyong City when gunmen shot and killed Nicolas Cervantes, 66, a Surigao-based freelance journalist who was also reported to be a "confidential agent" of the Bureau of Internal Revenue. The motive for the killing was still unknown.

RP must listen to US

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said that Ms Arroyo must listen to the US Senate.

"Actually, this is already a warning. The government has always considered the US as a big brother. Now, the big brother is telling the younger brother to shape up," said Jose Torres, NUJP spokesperson.

Vergel Santos of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility said local groups had been trying to bring to the government's attention the rash of violence against journalists to no avail.

"Any pressure that is put to bear on the Philippine government is welcome news. And the government must heed this (US Senate's) call. But the government does not seem impressed. We have heard nothing from the government on this. I would imagine increased pressure would necessarily soften it," Santos said.

Gestures of support

Governments and organizations around the world made gestures of support for journalists on World Press Freedom Day. Dozens of leaders came under fierce criticism for infringing on free expression.

Reporters Sans Frontières in Paris displayed a rogues' gallery of photographs of 37 world leaders it accused of abusing journalists' rights.

RSF secretary general Robert Menard denounced "acts of violence, imprisonments, assassinations" of journalists, saying 2005 saw the most killings of journalists in any year since 1995.

Iraq had the highest media death toll, he added, with 90 journalists killed there since the start of the war three years ago.

Predators of press freedom

Among the leaders identified by RSF as "predators" of press freedom were King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, and Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Fidel Castro of Cuba, Hu Jintao of China and Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Swedish organizations called for the release of Dawit Isaac, a Swedish-Eritrean journalist held in Eritrea since 2001 on charges of being a traitor and spy for Ethiopia.

A statement by 12 Turkish press organizations urged the abolition of draft amendments to an antiterror law that critics say could land journalists in jail if they are convicted of publishing material perceived as terrorist propaganda.

Dozens of journalists marched in the Zimbabwean capital demanding that the government repeal its tough media laws under which several newspapers have been shut down and foreign reporters expelled from the country.

Journalists in Danger

The group Journalists in Danger in the Democratic Republic of Congo denounced an increase in violations of press freedoms ahead of planned elections this summer, including the killing of some journalists and the beating of others by security forces.

The government of the neighboring state of Congo announced it would release $96,000 in funding to train state and private sector journalists. Communications Minister Alain Akouala cited a "problem of quality" in journalism in the country.

Cartoons

Malaysian rights groups alleged serious violations, noting in a petition that three newspapers had been suspended for their coverage of the controversial Danish cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed.

In contrast, Yemen made a goodwill gesture, lifting a suspension of operations of three newspapers which had been imposed in February when they published the Prophet cartoons, the Yemen Observer reported.

Greece's culture minister, Georges Voulgarakis, also sought to mend fences over the Mohammed cartoons dispute by launching an international competition of caricatures to overcome differences between various cultures.

An international panel of cartoon journalists will evaluate the entries, and the winning works will be displayed in October, marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the minister said.

Basque separatists

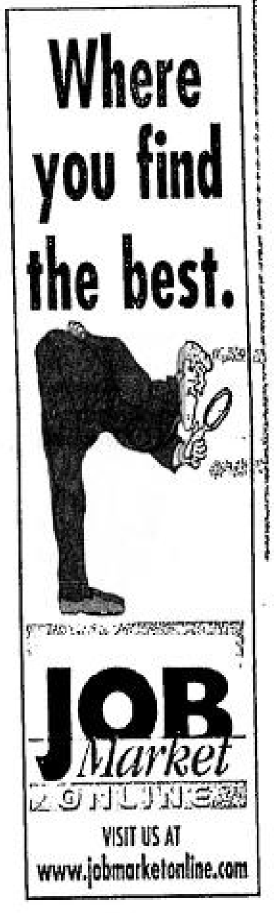
In another more positive development, RSF removed the Basque armed separatist group ETA from its list of "predators" due to a ceasefire announced by the group in March.

But it added five new names to its list comprising government and rebel leaders, including Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Tamil armed rebel groups in Sri Lanka and Colombian rebel leaders.

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika announced amnesty for journalists jailed for insulting public officials, offending the president and defamation.

However, staunch government critic Mohamed Benchicou, head of the newspaper Le Matin, will remain in jail where he is serving a two-year sentence for breaking exchange control legislation after treasury bonds were found in his luggage at Algiers airport. ***AFP with a report from Alcuin Papa***

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Sen. Richard Lugar at the US Capitol on May 20, 2003. FILE PHOTO



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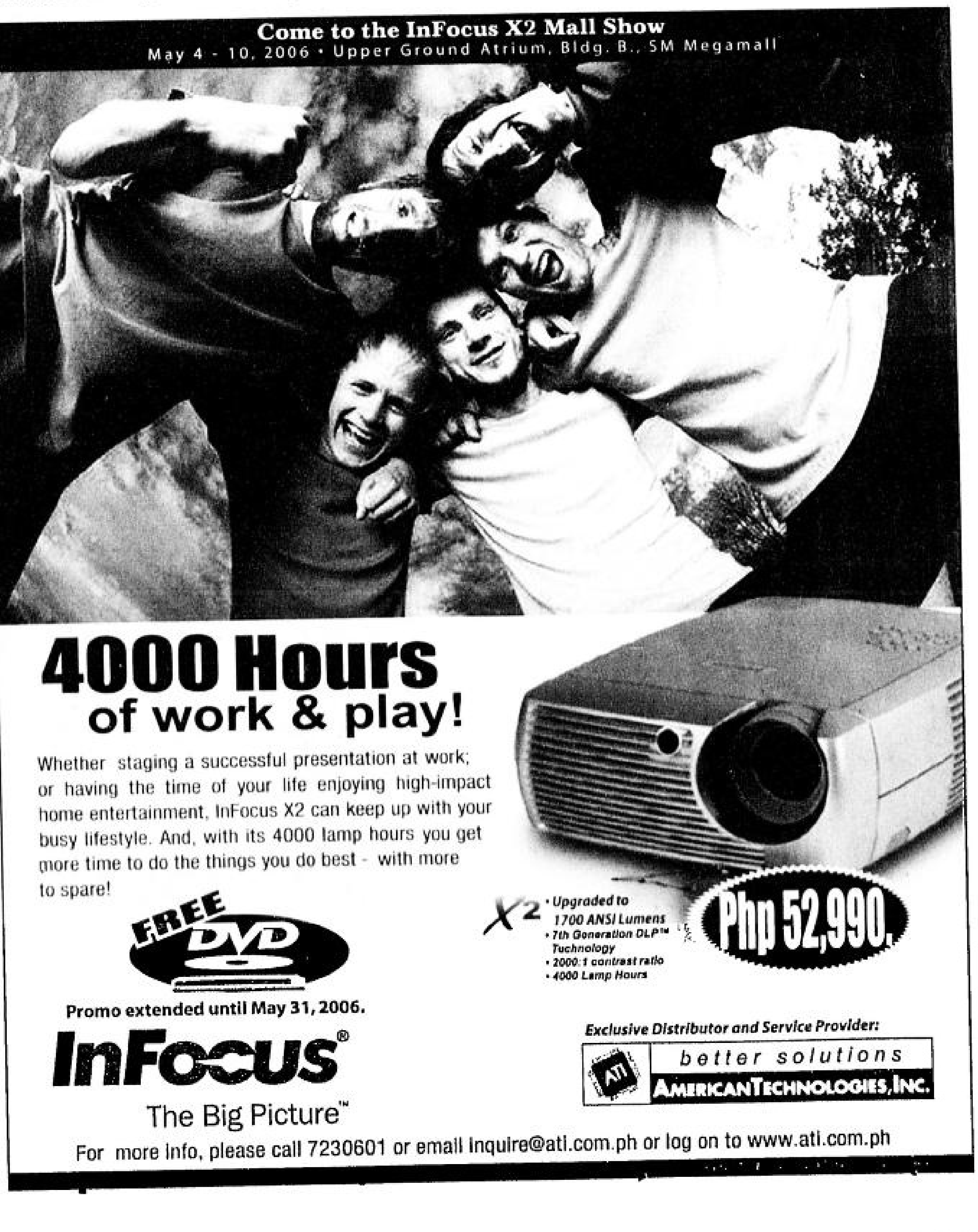

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ARROYO

Bad news for pre-need victims: GMA can't deliver

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO ADMITted yesterday she cannot deliver on a promise to divert P1 billion from the Government Service Insurance System to help over 100,000 victims of failed pre-paid educational plans.

"When we were looking for a solution (to help) pre-need victims, the GSIS was ready to answer for the pre-need victims because you have the cash, but then there were legal issues," said President Arroyo in a televised roundtable forum on the pension fund industry.

At the height of the pre-need debacle last year, when several pre-need companies declared their inability to meet obligations under their pre-paid educational plans, the President hastily announced that she was allocating P1 billion to state universities and colleges so they could accommodate students with failed education plans. Based on the President's plan, the money would have come from GSIS dividends due the government.

However, GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said in an interview that government rules do not allow the transfer of GSIS dividends to any institution without explicit approval from Congress.

Can't do

"We wanted to give it (GSIS dividends) to the Office of the President but it requires an appropriation; she (the President) can't give it directly to the pre-need students," Garcia told the INQUIRER.

This development is bad news for the more than 100,000 college plan holders after the Securities and Exchange Commission reported that four major pre-need firms—Pacific Plans, Platinum Plans, College Assurance Plan Philippines. Inc., and The Professional Group—have sought for a suspension of debt payments.

To make up for her shortcoming, the President ordered Garcia to expand the GSIS' scholarship program.

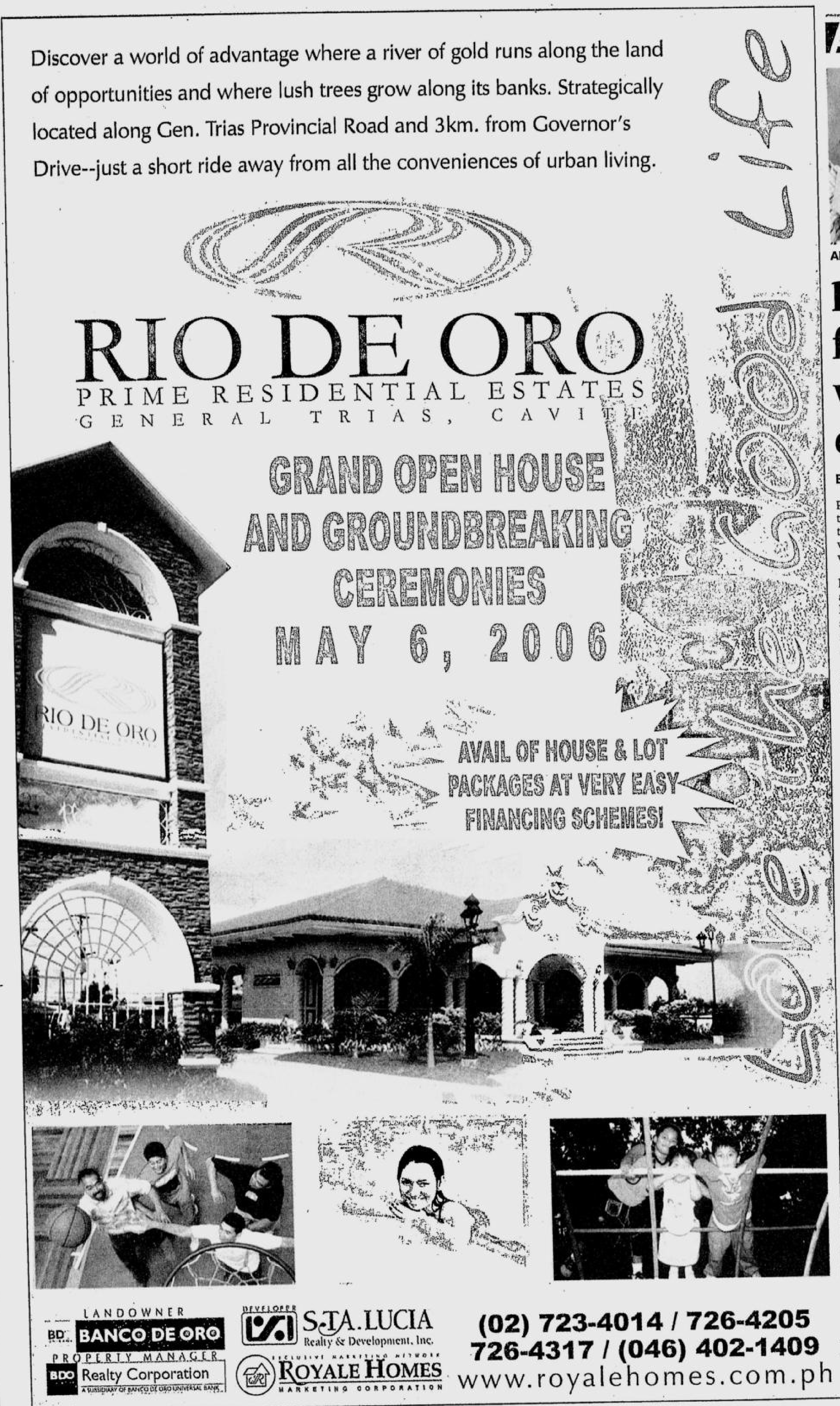
"Winston, maybe we can just broaden the scholarship program to cover more students before the school starts," the President said.

But Garcia said that the scholarship program, which gives the lucky GSIS member's child or designated beneficiary P20,000 in tuition fees per semester and P2,000 in monthly allowance, was intended for only 130 scholars and was set to be raised to 1,000 next year. The GSIS has more than 1 million members and the scholars are picked by lottery.

Garcia said the GSIS would be willing to help the troubled pre-need companies if their tuition fees were restructured.

"This means that all pre-need companies pay the same amount based on the national average of tuition fees for exclusive and non-exclusive schools," Garcia noted. "They have the same policy, they pay the same premium, so why should they not get the same benefits?"

Garcia noted that an exclusive school charges only P20,000 in Cebu while the same school in Metro Manila charges P100,000 a year.



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WALLY SANTANA

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BOC raids alleged smuggled goods den

Warehouses in Tondo compound supplied imported items to malls

By Leila B. Salaverria

CUSTOMS Commissioner Napoleon Morales: Straight to the source

PDI FILE PHOTO

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS RAIDED yesterday a compound in Tondo, Manila, that allegedly supplied smuggled or fake items sold in malls.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said yesterday the bureau's agents had begun checking the import documents of items stored in 26 warehouses inside a compound operated by the RAN Properties Management Corp. (RAN PMC).

The bureau will try to determine if the goods had been properly assessed and charged the correct duties, or if any violation of intellectual property rights had been committed.

"We conducted the raid based on an allegation that the intellectual property code had been violated and goods were grossly undervalued or not classified properly," Morales told reporters.

If undervalued or untaxed goods were found, the BOC would require the owners to pay the correct amount of duties, he added.

The raid was conducted by the BOC together with the Task Force on Anti-Smuggling and the Intellectual Property Office. Operatives of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Special Action Force were also involved.

Morales said that by raiding the warehouse instead of the malls carrying the questionable items, "we are now going straight to the source."

He added the bureau expected to collect millions of pesos in fines and penalties as a result of the move.

Malls supplier

Based on the intelligence work of the BOC and the police, the RAN PMC compound on Antonio Rivera Street in Tondo was found to have supplied goods to malls in Baclaran, Parañaque, Tutuban, and Divisoria, including the popular shopping destination, the 168 Shopping Mall in Binondo.

In March, the BOC raided the mall and seized untaxed imported goods and fake items. The operation, involving 500 customs agents, suspended sales operations in the mall for more than a month as agents inventoried and assessed the seized items.

Among the first finds of the BOC found in one of the warehouses at the RAN PMC compound yesterday, Morales said, were undervalued electronic equipment.

He pointed out that the video cassette disc (VCD) players found at the warehouse occupied by Ahhoo Enterprises, run by a certain Holden Ko, were listed in import documents as costing only US$0.90 or around P50 based on the current foreign exchange rate.

"This is grossly undervalued. The value is less than the price of raw materials," Morales said.

The undervaluation of imported goods means less taxes and duties are collected by the BOC, depriving the government of much needed revenues. Since smuggled or undervalued goods are sold at a lower prices, they also compete unfairly with locally manufactured items.

Morales said the BOC would penalize its employees responsible for the release of the undervalued or misdeclared items in the warehouses.

He said the import documents would show the port of entry of the items and the names of the customs examiner and appraiser who processed the documents.

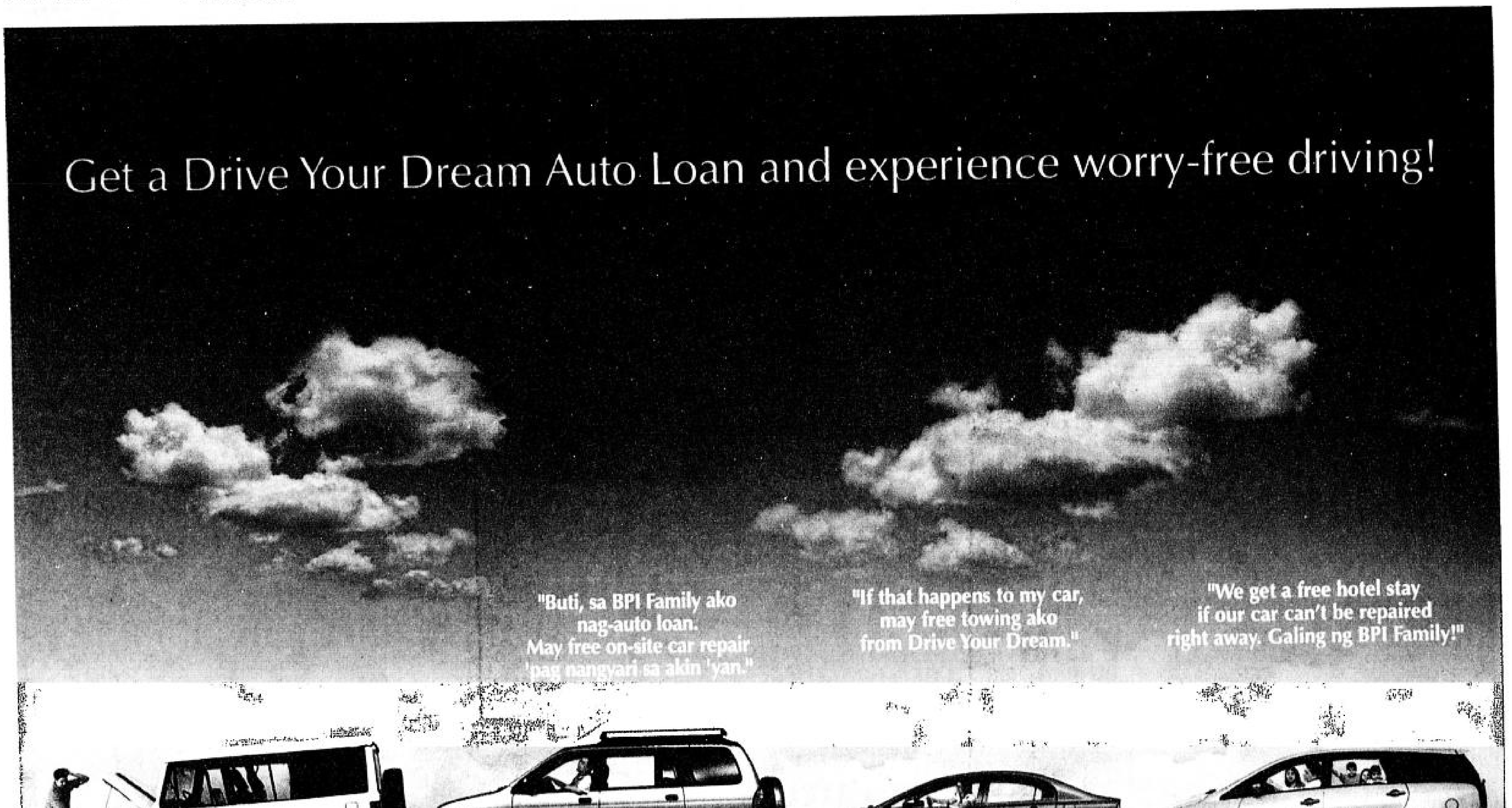
Meanwhile, RAN PMC operations manager Bobby Ting said the corporation only rented out the warehouses. He said the corporation prohibited the storage of explosives and illegal drugs, and expected tenants to store imported items properly in the warehouses.

Strictly legal

"If it is proven they had something illegal in the warehouses, we have to kick them out," Ting said.

The other warehouses the BOC inspected yesterday contained imported monggo beans, creamed corn, rice flour and gelatin. It was not determined if the right amount of taxes were paid on the items.

Tenant Susan Tan, who stored household items in her rented warehouse, assured the bureau of her cooperation, saying all her papers were in order.



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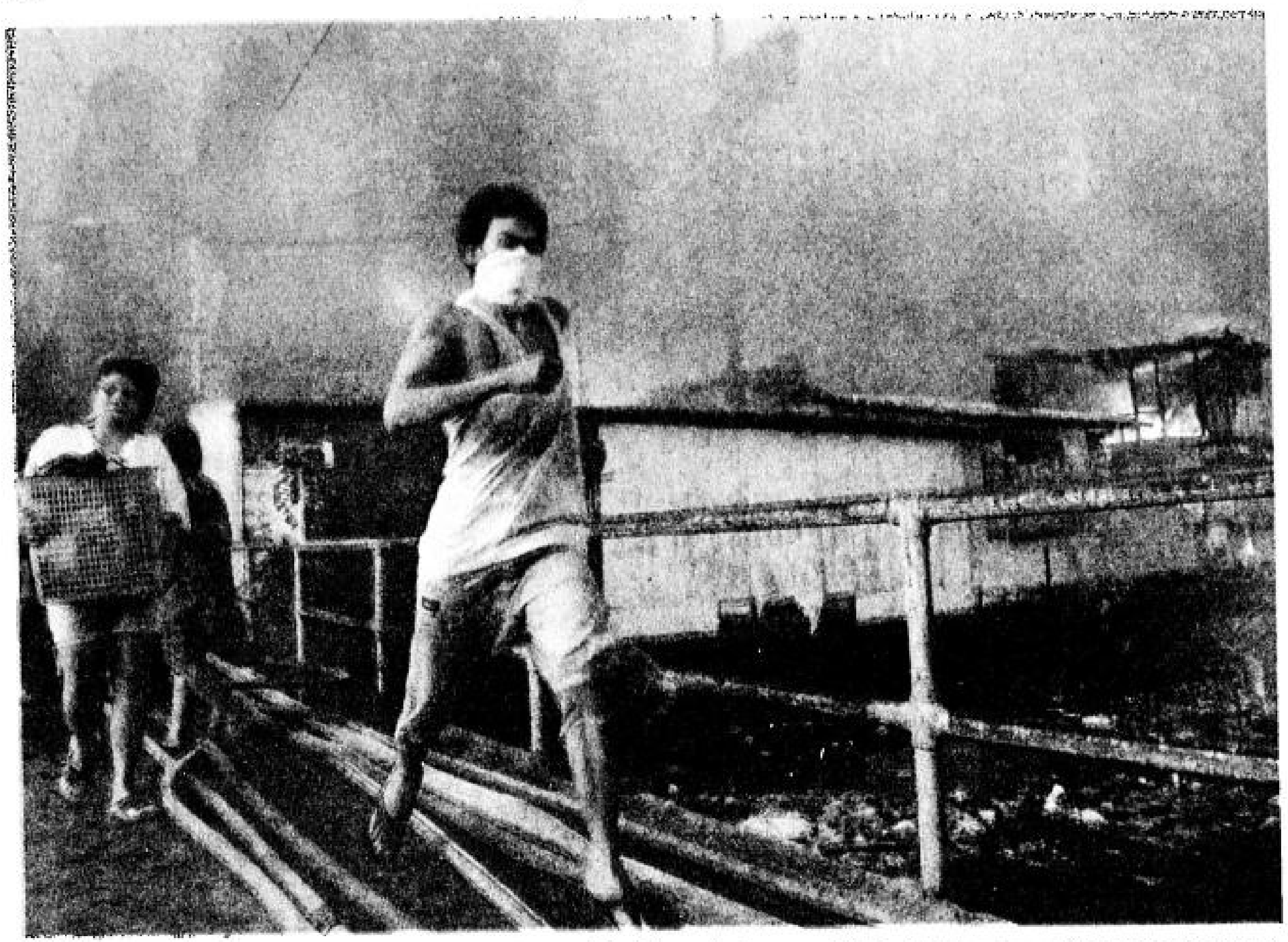
3 fires break out in Metro Manila's long, hot summer



RESIDENTS of Coral St., Tondo, in Manila rush out of their burning homes with their belongings after a fire broke out in the area yesterday morning. REM ZAMORA

By Jocelyn R. Uy, Margaux C. Ortiz and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THREE FIRES BROKE OUT IN SEPARATE AReas in the metropolis yesterday.

In a crowded Parañaque City community, a fire gobbled up at least P15 million worth of property before noon, fire officials said.

Pining Guadarama told fire investigators that she saw smoke coming from the second floor of a bakery on De Leon Street, Quirino Avenue in Barangay Tambo at 11:38 a.m.

According to District 3 Fire Marshal Supt. Sofia Mendoza, the second floor of the establishment was occupied by boarders. But they have yet to find out whether or not the room was empty when the blaze broke out.

The blaze spread to neighboring commercial establishments including several variety stores and a hardware shop. Mendoza, who said they have yet to establish the cause of the fire, estimated that at least 70 houses were destroyed in the incident.

Casualties

Roger Santiago, 18, sustained wounds in the legs when a metal scrap hit him during the fire. Mendoza said there were also reports that an old woman, identified only as Elvira, was brought to the hospital after she suffered a heart attack at the height of the fire.

Illegal electrical connections, on the other hand, may have caused the fire that razed a residential area in Tondo, Manila, yesterday, according to arson investigators.

SFO1 Rodelio Nelvis of the Manila Fire Department (MFD) said the fire, which started on the roof of a house on Coral Street, Juan Luna, began at 10:23 a.m., displacing around 300 families. The fire was put out at 12:35 p.m., the arson investigator said. No one was reported injured during the incident.

Top of list

SFO2 Gaudencio Magallanes of the MFD earlier disclosed that electrical wiring topped the list of fire hazards in the city. He said that in highly populated areas like Tondo and Sampaloc, illegal electrical connections often resulted in fires.

Meanwhile, more than 20 shanties were razed when a fire broke out inside a crowded relocation area in Tumana, Barangay Concepcion Uno, Marikina City, yesterday afternoon.

City Fire Marshal Chief Insp. Antonio Razal told the INQUIRER that at least 43 families were left homeless as a result of the incident. He estimated the damages at P5 million.

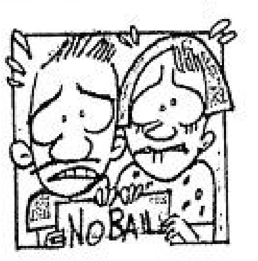
Razal said they received information that the house where the fire began could have been using an illegal connection.

Three persons sustained wounds after they were hit with iron sheets during the commotion, Razal added. The fire victims were later brought to temporary quarters at the Marikina Heights Elementary School.

METROBRIEFS

No bail for couple

A VALENZUELA Regional Trial Court judge did not recommend bail for a couple accused of large scale estafa who allegedly victimized at least 200 persons. Jose Luis and Lora Marie Catap were arrested in San Mateo, Rizal, province on Tuesday by virtue of a warrant issued by RTC Branch 171 Judge Maria Nena Santos. The suspects were also charged with illegal recruitment. Initial investigation showed that the couple allegedly collected money from the complainants ranging from P25,000 to P50,000 who were promised jobs in an electronic company based in Japan. —*Nancy C. Carvajal*



Red letter day for Arellano High

MEMBERS of the ARELLANO HIGH SCHOOL BATCH-1966 are invited to attend their fortieth (Ruby) anniversary reunion on Saturday, at Bailamor Function Room, Kimura-Vale Entertainment Center, 1971 Leon Guinto St., Malate, Manila. For inquiries, please call Florian Paguia-Tan at 5623919 and 0915-9008207, Bert Cruz at 9613488 and 0920-5090073 or Jay de Belen at 8902029 or 8976164 or 0927-3322975. Ruben Clemente of the Office of the Vice-Mayor of Las Piñas is head of the Arellano Class '66 Reunion Organizing Committee.

'Pasinaya' in Makati

THE MONTH-LONG celebration of the 336th Foundation Day of Makati will kick off with Barangay Bel-Air and the Bel-Air Village Association's (BAVA) Annual Pasinaya Festival on May 6-7. Barangay Bel-Air Captain Constancia Lichauco said this year's Pasinaya will carry the theme "Panahon Natin, Ritmo Natin." The celebration will start with a parade of bands around the village and the ribbon cutting and blessing of the Pasinaya venue. Pasinaya 2006 will also include a bazaar, a food festival, a band exhibition, and children's fashion show, among others.

QC court asked to dismiss STL franchise holder's petition

Belmonte strikes back, cites lack of permit

By DJ Yap

THE QUEZON CITY GOVERNMENT yesterday sought the dismissal of a petition for injunction and temporary restraining order filed by a Small Town Lottery (STL) franchisee who was not allowed to operate in the city.

The 14-page motion was submitted by Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., business permits chief Pacifico Maghacot Jr., and police district director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan Jr.

Petitioner Benchmark Acquisition International Corp. earlier asked a Quezon City court to stop the respondent officials from blocking the operations of STL in the city. It argued that the officials lacked jurisdiction, since the company was an authorized agent of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

But Belmonte, Maghacot and Radovan said the petition lacked merit and the franchisee had failed to comply with the requirements.

No true copy

Among other things, the respondents said the petition did not include a certified true copy of the "judgment, order or resolution" being questioned.

Belmonte had issued a cease-and-desist order against the STL, saying Benchmark did not have a permit from his office. Benchmark sought an injunction against the order.

The respondents said the injunction would, in effect, allow the company to operate a business in Quezon City without "any form of permit or regulation" from the city government.

Judge Bernelito Fernandez of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 97 indicated he would resolve the petition for temporary restraining order first before hearing the request for injunction.

QUEZON City Mayor Sonny Belmonte: No to lottery

JUSTICE HALL INAUGURATION
Taguig City marked its 419th founding anniversary with the inauguration of a new Justice Hall. At the opening were Supreme Court Justice Presbitero Velasco, Vice Mayor George A. Elias, Justice Dante O. Tiñga and Executive Judge Edwin Villasor.

MPD, EPD cops beef up back to school safety plans

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AFTER FOCUSING THEIR ENERgies and manpower on the Labor Day rallies, policemen have now turned their attention to security measures with schools set to open in June.

Supt. Rolando Miranda, chief of the Manila Police District (MPD) Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit (CIDU), said the police would be setting up assistance centers in different university areas in the city to provide help to returning students in the next few weeks.

Assistance centers

The assistance centers will be stationed in the University Belt, Mendiola Consortium and Taft Avenue, Miranda said.

"We have given instructions to the station commanders regarding the influx of students during the enrollment period," Miranda told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Thousands of college freshmen and sophomore students are expected to begin enrolling next week, the MPD official said.

Miranda said the station commanders have coordinated with campus officials regarding the implementation of security measures in their respective schools.

University belt

The police official said MPD Stations 3 and 4 would be in charge of the University Belt Area while Station 8 would ensure peace and order in the Mendiola Consortium.

Miranda added that MPD Stations 5 and 9 were instructed to implement security measures in the Taft Avenue area where De La Salle University, College of St. Benilde and University of the Philippines Manila are located.

Police officials are also preparing to intensify security measures inside the busy Ortigas Business District, anticipating the mall rush that comes with the opening of classes next month.

"We have been talking about the deployment of Special Weapons and Tactics operatives, bank patrols and members of the police mobile force," Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino told the INQUIRER.

Business district

The other afternoon, he met with officials in charge of security measures in and around buildings at the business district, the site of at least five big malls, hotels, restaurant strips and call center offices.

The security officials were particularly focused on curbing robbery and theft cases in the area, especially around the malls.

Records from the Eastern Police District showed at least 54 of the 71 crime incidents reported in the area from January to April this year were robbery and theft incidents.

Crime watch

"We want to preempt whatever criminals could be planning especially because the opening of classes is near," Alejandrino said.

Barangay officials are also planning to buy more two-way radios for their watchmen while police are evaluating their fixed visibility patrols.

Alejandrino advised mall goers and employees to always be on alert, especially those working on the night shift.

"They should be always on alert. They should avoid walking alone especially in dimly lit areas," Alejandrino said.

Danger spots

In the same report, police also listed Emerald Avenue, SM Megamall, Pearl Drive, San Miguel Avenue, Shaw Boulevard and Shangri-La Mall as among the crime-prone areas inside the business district.

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150 types of bird flu pose threat

SINGAPORE—WHILE THE WORLD FOCUSES on battling the spread of the deadly bird flu, nearly 150 different strains of the virus with the potential to cause a global pandemic were laying in wait, scientists warned on Wednesday.

"It is dangerous just to focus on H5N1," Hiroshi Kida, of Japan's Hokkaido University, said on the sidelines of a bird flu conference in Singapore organized by the Lancet medical journal.

Kida said H5N1 virus—responsible for 113 deaths around the world—was one of at least 144 potential different strains which posed a threat to humans.

The different strains were possible because of combinations of proteins within the virus.

All the strains were present in ducks, which act as carriers often without showing any flu symptoms, he said.

"None of the ... subtypes can be ruled out as potential candidates for future pandemics," Kida told the conference.

Bird flu viruses are a threat to humans because we have no natural immunity to most of them and because they can jump directly from birds to people—just as one strain did in 1918, triggering a pandemic in which an estimated 50 million died.

In 2003, an outbreak of highly pathogenic H7N7 bird flu infected 89 people in Holland and killed one. Bird flu strains H9N2, H7N2 and H7N3 have also infected people.

But it is fast-spreading H5N1 that has scientists most worried at the moment. It is known to have killed at least 113 of the 205 people it has infected and killed or led to the culling of about 200 million chickens.

Virologist Malik Peiris told the conference the assumption that H5N1 will wear itself out if it triggers a pandemic might be wrong.

"If this virus becomes a pandemic, will it attenuate its virulence in humans? I think that would be a rather optimistic assumption to make," said Peiris of the University of Hong Kong.

During past pandemics, flu viruses quickly evolved to effectively wear themselves out and kill only a small percentage of people. *Reuters*

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Moussaoui gets life; taunts: 'US, you lost'

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA—ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI claimed victory over America after a jury rejected the government's effort to put the Sept. 11 conspirator to death and instead decided to lock him away in prison for the rest of his life.

Moussaoui, who spent much of the two-month trial cursing America, blessing al-Qaida and mocking the suffering of 9/11 victims, offered one more taunt after the jury reached its verdict: "America, you lost … I won," he said, clapping his hands as he was escorted from the courtroom.

Moussaoui will get one last chance to speak publicly Thursday when he will formally be sentenced to life in prison. Barring an unforeseen circumstance, he will then be sent to a federal supermax prison in Colorado for the rest of his life under special conditions that will prevent him from having any contact with the outside world.

MOUSSAOUI AFP

After seven days of deliberation, the nine men and three women rebuffed the government's appeal for death for the only person charged in this country in the suicide hijackings that killed nearly 3,000 people on Sept. 11, 2001.

It is not known how many jurors wanted Moussaoui sentenced to life and how many wanted a death sentence. Under federal law, a defendant automatically receives life in prison when a jury is split. The 42-page verdict form gives no indication on how, or if, the jury split.

Interestingly, the jury rejected two key defense arguments—that Moussaoui suffers a mental illness and that executing him would make him a martyr. No jurors indicated on the verdict form that they gave any weight to those arguments.

Nine jurors found that Moussaoui suffered a difficult childhood in a dysfunctional family where he spent many of his early years in and out of orphanages. Three found that Moussaoui only played a minor role in 9/11.

Prosecutors, who pursued the Moussaoui case for 4 1/2 years, declared themselves satisfied with the jury's verdict.

Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty, who was chief prosecutor in Alexandria in December 2001 when Moussaoui was first charged, noted that the jury in the trial's first phase found Moussaoui responsible for the 9/11 attacks by concealing the al-Qaida plot from federal agents after Moussaoui was arrested in August 2001 on immigration violations.

"It only takes one juror to reject imposition of the death penalty, and we respect that," McNulty said. *AP*

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WORLDBRIEFS

Search for air crash victims

SOCHI, Russia—Rescue workers stepped up their search on Thursday morning for bodies, wreckage and black boxes from an Armenian plane that crashed into the Black Sea off the Russian coast. Russian rescue teams, which had searched throughout the night at the crash site near the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, began plumbing the depths with specialist equipment, including sonars, that arrived the previous evening from Moscow. All 113 passengers and crew on the flight from the Armenian capital, Yerevan, are thought to have died when the Airbus A3 20 plunged into the sea as it tried to land at Sochi in bad weather. By Thursday morning 53 bodies had been fished out of the water and 20 had been identified, ITAR-TASS said. *AFP*

Serbia punished over Mladic

MLADIC AP

BELGRADE—Serbia admitted Wednesday its inability to capture war crimes fugitive Ratko Mladic, frustrating the European Union and exposing Belgrade's tortured ties with UN prosecutors bidding to try him for genocide. A month after Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica promised to comply with a decade-long demand by the international community to catch Mladic, the European Union suspended talks on closer ties with Belgrade. Suspension of the talks, a precursor to eventual membership negotiations, effectively punishes Belgrade for failing to live up to those promises by the April 30 deadline. Instead of arresting Mladic—who is wanted for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity—Kostunica could only urge the former Bosnian Serb military commander to surrender. *AFP*

No soft drinks in US schools

THE COUNTRY'S top three soft-drink companies announced Wednesday that beginning this fall they would start removing sweetened drinks like Coke, Pepsi and iced teas from school cafeterias and vending machines in response to the growing threat of lawsuits and state legislation. Under an agreement between beverage makers and health advocates, students in elementary school would be served only bottled water, low-fat and nonfat milk, and 100 percent fruit juice in servings no bigger than 8 ounces. But the agreement—which includes parochial and private school contracts—is voluntary, and the beverage industry says its school sales would not be affected because it expects to replace sugary drinks with other ones. *NYT*

World's oldest at 128 years

HERNANDEZ REUTERS

SAN AGUSTIN, El Salvador—Friends and relatives of Cruz Hernandez's gathered on Wednesday to celebrate her 128th birthday, a milestone that might make her the world's oldest person. Hernandez, who relatives say spends most of her time dozing and no longer speaks, was surrounded by some 200 people at her party, some bearing a cake and others dressed as Salvadoran mythological heroes. According to national records, Hernandez was born on May 3, 1878, in one of the country's central provinces, where she gave birth to 13 children. She now has 60 grandchildren, 60 great-grandchildren and 25 great-great grandchildren. National birth registry officials sent Hernandez's documents to the Guinness World Records organization last year but have yet to hear whether the case was accepted. Guinness claims Ecuadorean Maria Esther de Capovilla is the world's oldest living woman at age 116. According to the organization, the longest any woman has ever lived is 122 years. The oldest man was 120 when he died in 1986. *Reuters*

Picasso fetches $95.2M

NEW YORK—Picasso's painting "Dora Maar with cat" sold for $95.2 million at a New York auction on Wednesday, close to the world record for a piece by the Spanish artist, the Sotheby's auction house said. The 1941 portrait of Maar, a photographer who became Picasso's lover, is so precious that Sotheby's did not print a price estimate for the work in its auction catalogue. Picasso's 1905 masterpiece "Boy with a Pipe" remains the most expensive painting ever sold since it went under the hammer at a New York auction for $104.2 million in May 2004. *AFP*

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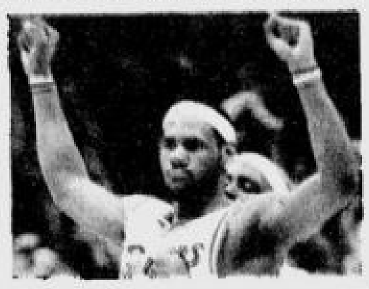
WHAT'S INSIDE



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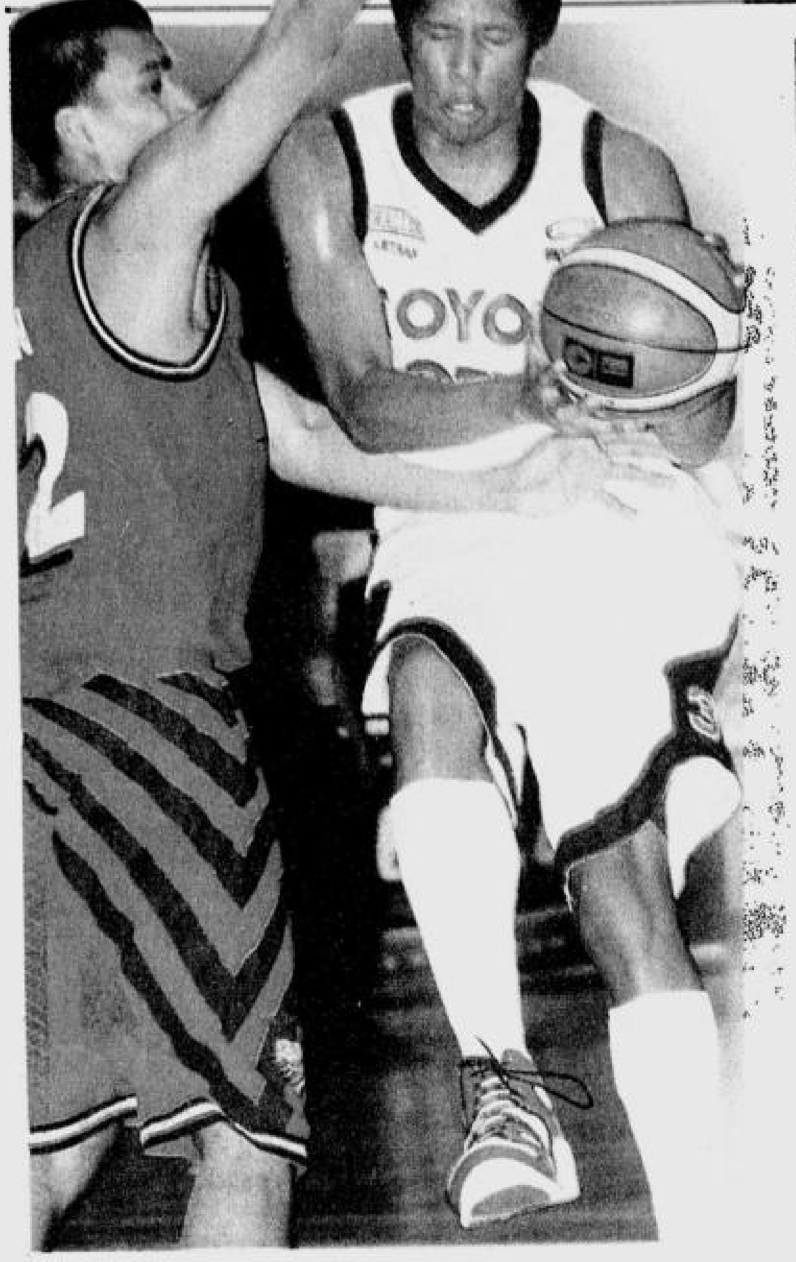

JOE Devance of Toyota Otis (right) during power play fishes a foul off Samigue Eman of Rain or Shine in yesterday's game. ERIK ARAZAS

Sparks trip Painters; Harbour Centre wins

GAMES TUESDAY (*San Andres Gym, Malate*)
2 p.m.—Magnolia Ice Cream vs TeleTech
4 p.m.—Montana Pawnshop vs Granny Goose

THE KILLER SHOTS CAME from unexpected sources for Toyota Otis yesterday.

Emerson Oreta and JV Casio knocked in a triple each down the stretch as the Sparks bested Rain or Shine, 67-61, in the 2006 PBL Unity Cup at the Olivarez Sports Center in Paranaque.

With the Sparks protecting a slim 59-54 lead, Oreta, hardly a factor in the team's previous wins, rose to the occasion by burying a triple that gave them a 62-54 advantage.

Rain or Shine's Gilbert Malabanan countered with a tough layup but it went for naught as Casio drained another triple that took the sting out the Elasto Painters, 65-56, only 1:16 left.

Earlier, Harbour Centre leaned on Chico Lanete anew to nip Hapee-PCU, 69-64, and post its third straight win.

Lanete, last week's co-Player of the Week, scored 10 points in the second quarter and then added six points from rainbow territory in the payoff period to strengthen Harbour Centre's bid for a twice-to-beat bonus in the quarterfinals.

Their fifth win enabled Harbour Centre to climb to 5-6, while the Snackmasters absorbed their fifth straight loss and dropped to 3-8.

"We surprised them with our zone defense," said Toyota Otis coach Louie Alas. "I'm happy, too, with the performance of Emerson."

With their 8-3 record, the Sparks must win three of their remaining four games to clinch an outright semis berth. The Painters fell to 7-4.

The scores:

First Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 69—Lanete 16, Gaco 13, Tenorio 9, Arana 9, Mairhofer 6, Reyes 5, Alonzo 4, Coching 2, Chia 2, Gamboa 2, Saguindel 1.

HAPEE-PCU 64—Castro 17, Moreno 12, Gonzales 11, Espinas 10, Belga 5, Sanz 5, Solis 2, Nailon 2, Bucao 0, Razon 0, Canlas 0, Guevarra 0, Bacull 0.

Quarters: 16-18, 36-27, 53-43, 69-64

Second Game

TOYOTA OTIS 67—Devance 21, Aban 15, Oreta 12, Casio 5, Andaya 4, Daa 4, Cabahug 2, Alcaraz 2, Bautista 2, Fajardo 0, Aldave 0, Coronel 0, Baluyot 0, Rodriguez 0.

RAIN OR SHINE 61—Malabanan 17, Tangkay 11, Ortiguerra 11, Cabatu 5, Tan 5, Enrile 5, Sta. Maria 4, Reyes 2, Eman 1, Orbeta 0, Sagad 0, Urra 0.

Quarters: 16-16, 29-30, 53-43, 67-61

STANDINGS	W	L
San Miguel	9	2
Purefoods	8	3
Coca-Cola	6	5
Talk 'N Text	5	6
Red Bull	5	6
Alaska	5	6
Ginebra	4	6
Air21	4	7
Sta. Lucia	3	8

GAMES TODAY
(*Ynares Center*)
4:40 p.m.—SMB vs Purefoods
7:35 p.m.—Air21 vs Red Bull

Beermen, Giants tangle today

A WIN-STREAK ENDS AND ANother stretches.

That will be the scenario when league-leader San Miguel Beer tangles with Purefoods today in the Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup at the Ynares Center.

Toting a 9-2 record, highlighted by a seven-game winning run, San Miguel is favored to prevail against its sister team in the 4:40 match.

However, Purefoods is a formidable foe as it holds second spot at 8-3 thanks to a three-game roll.

A win by the Chunkee Giants would forge a two-way tie for the top spot, making it harder for the other teams to catch up in the chase for the two outright semifinal seats.

It would also give Purefoods the morale boost as it was dumped by San Miguel, 93-77, in their first meeting last month.

Red Bull is looking for its third straight victory in its 7:35 p.m. match against fading Air21.

With a 5-6 record it shares with idle Talk 'N Text and Alaska, the Bulls are bent on securing an outright quarterfinals berth reserved for the No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5 teams after the eliminations.

The Express, who bowed to the Bulls, 112-98, last March 29, have a second-worse 4-7 record.

The four teams with the worst record will go through a wild-card phase where they play a single round to decide the one squad that will join the quarterfinalists. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

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ST. BENILDE'S Janilyn Sarabia dives over partner Faith Ann de Guzman during their semifinal match against Liezl Manatad and Mylin Que of University of Mindanao-Tagum. UMT prevailed, 25-21. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Unheralded Capitol U pair shines

By Musong R. Castillo

BORACAY, AKLAN—EVEN BEFORE the formal opening rites could be held, rookie Capitol University of Cagayan de Oro put itself closer toward booking a special seat in the awards rites.

Capitol U hammered out victories over two tough foes to become the first team to enter the men's quarterfinals of the 10th Nestea Beach Volley championships in this sun-baked island paradise.

Orpheus Cubillas and Jose Carlos Cagadas tripped Far Eastern, 25-19, early in the morning before stunning powerhouse University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, 25-22, three hours before the event was declared open.

"We never expected to go this far," the 5-foot-8 Cagadas said in Filipino.

Defending champion Janley Patrona and Pio de Castro of St. Benilde quietly went about their business, ripping Ateneo de Davao, 25-13.

Former women's champion Adamson also got off to a rousing start, nipping University of Mindanao-Davao to join early winners Mindanao State U, University of Mindanao-Tagum and Letran.

MSU played steadier in the stretch to pull off a 25-21 win over University of Baguio; UM-Tagum outgunned St. Benilde, 25-21; and the Lady Knights won over Holy Cross de Davao, 25-20.

In other men's play, Adamson beat MSU, 25-19; St. Francis routed UMD, 25-13; USJ-R outlasted MSU, 32-30; Foundation U ripped UMD, 25-16, and San Carlos ripped Ateneo de Davao, 25-15.

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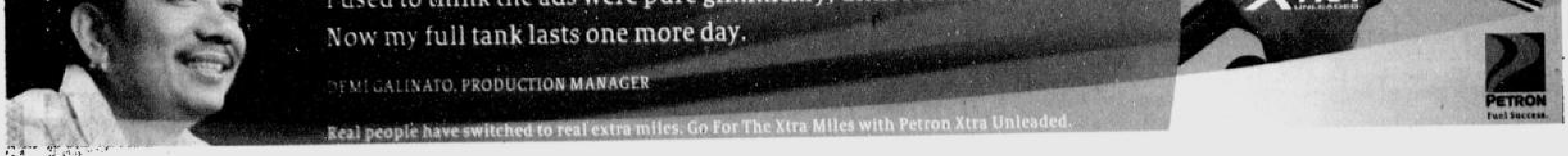
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POC has ₱300M in unliquidated advances

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE IS THE MOST delinquent among the financial beneficiaries of the Philippine Sports Commission.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco yesterday admitted in a radio interview that the local Olympic body had received separate letters from the PSC and the Department of Budget and Management regarding its unliquidated cash advances.

Cojuangco said the two agencies wanted the POC to account for about P300 million in financial assistance, which was primarily used by the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) to fund operations during the country's hosting of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games last year.

"I have received communications from both the PSC and the DBM about... the (Philsoc) liquidations," said the POC chief, who was also the chief executive officer of the Philsoc.

He said the Philsoc could not be dissolved yet as it had not liquidated its advances. Cojuangco said he had ordered the different Philsoc committees to help "straighten out some of the (liquidation) procedures."

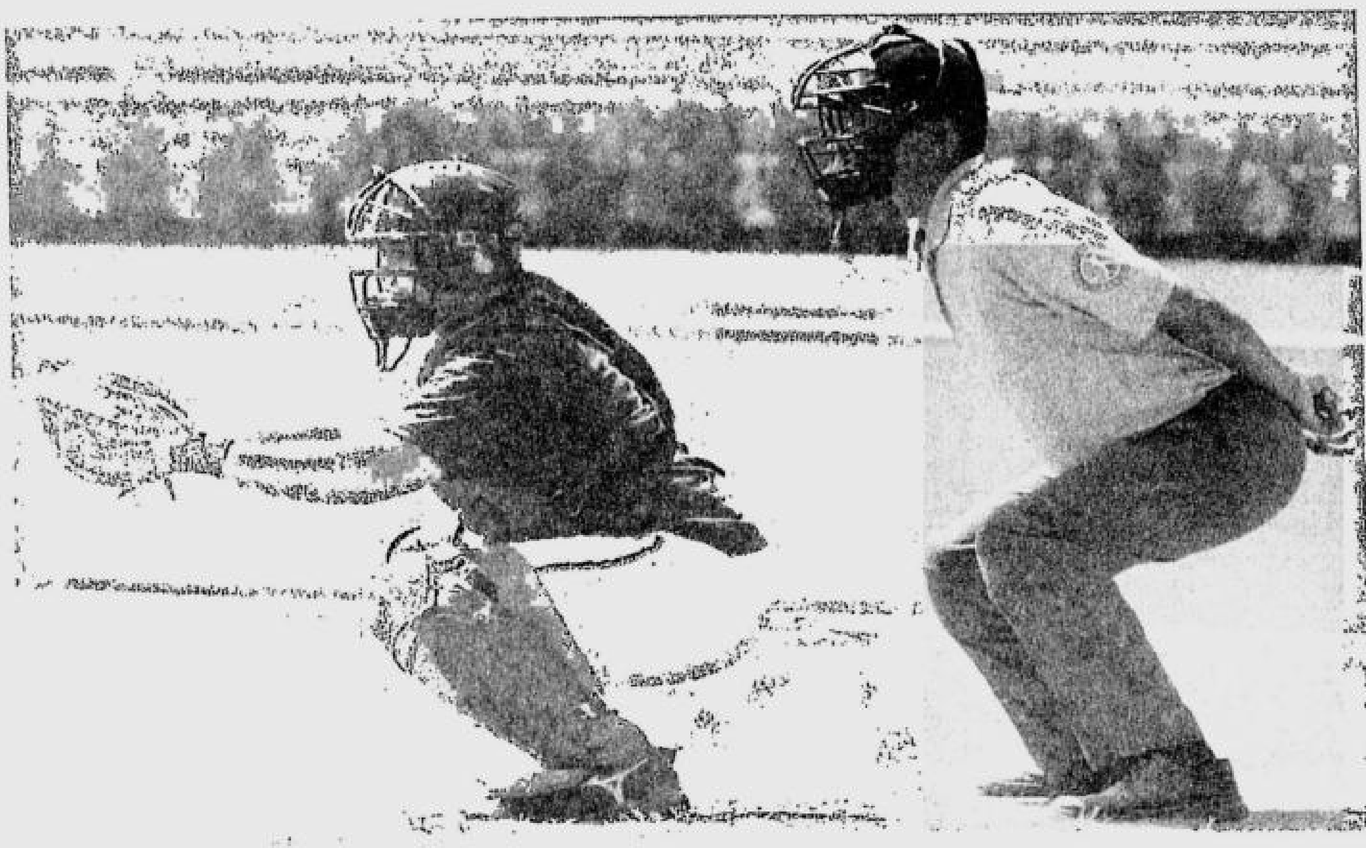
The Philippines spent more than P1 billion for the staging of the biennial Games, which the country won for the first time last December.

At least 40 national sports association have been dogged by liquidation problems. According to the PSC, their total unliquidated advances amounts to P66 million as of the end of April.

Deadlock at the diamond

Co-favorites Air21-Adamson, UP-Air Force play to 1-1 tie

GAMES TODAY (*PUP Grounds*)
Men: 7 a.m.—Cebu City vs UST; 8:30 a.m.—Air Force vs Davao; 10 a.m.—Army vs Pampanga; 11:30 a.m.—PUP vs Cabuyao
(*Rizal Memorial Football Field*)
Women: 7 a.m.—Air21-Adamson vs Manila; 8:30 a.m.—UP-Air Force vs PUP; 10 a.m.—Bacolod Junior vs Laguna; 11:30 a.m.—Air21-Adamson vs Bacolod Senior; 1 p.m.—UP-Air Force vs Bulacan; 2:30 p.m.—Bacolod Junior vs Manila; 4 p.m.—RTU vs Bulacan


ROMY HOMILLADA

AIR21-ADAMSON catcher Luvelyn Maganda gets ready for action at the start of the 4th inning watched by umpire Jovito Estanislao.

FAVORITES AIR21-ADAMSON AND University of the Philippines-Air Force played true to hype and forged an exciting 1-1 draw yesterday to gear up for a possible finals showdown in the women's side of the Philippine Open softball championships at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

The only teams with immaculate slates in the tournament thrilled the crowd that braved the oppressive heat. Later in the day, they drubbed separate rivals to each post a 3-win 1-draw card in women's play.

"It was a superb game for both teams," said Air21-Adamson manager Boy Codiñera, who is also the event's chief organizer.

Shortstop Che Valenzuela singled, stole twice and scored on a catching error by Jenny de Jesus in the fourth inning for a 1-0 Adamson lead that held on until De Jesus, a member of the Southeast Asian Games champion Blue Girls, homered on a 1-1 pitch to left field to tie the count.

Ironically, De Jesus played for Adamson until she was picked for national duty. She subsequently joined the Air Force squad.

Propped up by the morning game, Air21-Adamson flexed its muscle against Laguna to hack out a 15-0 victory, while UP-Air Force blasted Bacolod Junior, 10-0.

Manila also scored a 7-0 win after Bacolod Senior defaulted its game to take part in the Palarong Pambansa which begins this weekend in Naga City. The host team now has three wins and one loss.

Rizal Technological University routed Pampanga, 8-1, in the men's division for its second win, even as its women counterpart edged Bacolod Junior, 4-3.

Mayol given fair chance to capture world crown

By Recah Trinidad

TOKYO—ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN INSIDE the boxing ring, but Rodel Mayol of the Philippines may no longer need one to succeed in his quest for a world crown tomorrow night at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo.

All that would be required of the unbeaten 24-year-old punching marvel from Mandaue City is for him to surpass himself.

That should be routine when Mayol goes for the World Boxing Council minimumweight crown of Eagle Kyowa, with tall odds favoring the champion, a Thai by the name of Del Jalapan masquerading as a Japanese.

Kyowa (15-1 with 6 KOs) suffered an accident when he dislocated a shoulder that reportedly required an operation to correct and for him to regain his world 105-lbs title later.

However, with his unblemished 22-0 (17 KOs) record, Mayol cannot be considered an accident waiting to happen to the champion.

Mayol has the necessary skills and power to wrest the world crown, says Games and Amusements Board boxing division chief Noli Flores.

"We saw Kyowa fight, we supervised one of his title defenses in Japan, and I can say Mayol has a fair chance of winning," Flores explains.

There's been no drastic change in the odds that would pay $300 for a $100 bet on Mayol, while a $400 on Kyowa would give back only $100.

Mayol's Japanese manager, Yasuo Matsuoka, has told international boxing judge Salven Lagumbay his fighter has not been experiencing any trouble with the weight scales whatsoever.

The official weigh-in is scheduled today.

Defending OPBF bantam champion Malcolm Tuñacao of the Philippines clashes with challenger Yasuo Kijima of Japan in the undercard.

The bout will be covered by Solar Sports.

Mayol, in Tokyo for over a week now, has advantage of his early arrival to study Kyowa's style, which he availed of through videos and pointers from Japanese friends.

Mayol gained the right to challenge for Kyowa's crown after he stopped Mexican Lorenzo Trejo in the eliminator in Cancun, Mexico, last January.

Larios 'tough cookie' for Pacquiao

PACQUIAO

LARIOS

MANNY PACQUIAO CANNOT LET HIS GUARD down against a quick fighter like Mexico's Oscar Larios, and the backing of the hometown crowd could also work against their boxing idol.

American impresario Frank Belmont said yesterday that Pacquiao's July 2 bout with the wily Larios is certainly not a walk in the park.

"Larios is a good boxer, not a great puncher, durable quick, experienced and not easily intimidated," Belmont said of the fighter from Guadalajara.

As president of Belmonte Productions, Belmont knows whereof he speaks. He saw the fights of both Pacquiao and Larios in the "Boxeo de Oro," a monthly television series produced by the Golden Boy Promotions for Latin American audiences.

Larios, incidentally, is a mainstay of the Golden Boy Promotions of ring great Oscar dela Hoya.

"Larios is not a super-impressive fighter, but he is very professional," said Belmont. "The Mexican has all the tools and if I am a manager, I'd like to own him."

He said network giant ABS-CBN, which is promoting the fight, is on track to becoming a world-caliber TV show provider of top fights.

"If our offer is accepted, the Pacquiao-Larios fight would would have a worldwide audience either on the US-based Direct-TV or In-Demand affiliates in 50 countries," Belmont said.

"Our programs are 90 percent sports-related and we are in contract with cable providers to televise all international feeds for HBO Boxing."

Belmont arrived quietly in Manila last Wednesday hoping to visit the fight's venue, Araneta Coliseum, and to mingle with Pacquiao's fans.

"I like what I've seen so far, and I'd like to relay a message to Pacquiao that there is an element of risk for any fighter fighting in his own hometown," Belmont said.

"As the promoter and hero in this coming drama, Pacquiao could also get a lot of distractions, too many responsibilities—which are very dangerous for even a good fighter."

Belmont said Pacquiao should remember two things. "One, when Pacquiao destroyed Marco Antonio Barrera via an 11th-round TKO win in 2003 in San Antonio, Texas, the Mexican had majority of the crowd backing him up," Belmont said.

"And two, when welter Zab Judah lost to Carlos Baldemir of Argentina, there was bedlam in New York City, Judah's hometown. Judah was a forlorn figure after the loss."

SPORTSWATCH

Camarines Sur hosts TM Go-for-Gold

THE AMATEUR BOXING ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES BRINGS THE TM Go-for-Gold to the church patio of Caramoan, Camarines Sur, today. Supported by the local government of Caramoan headed by Mayor Francis "Kiko" Benemerito, the event features rising stars from the Carahan Boxing Club Inc. and the Amistad-Caramoan Inc. plus members of the national boxing team. Reigning Southeast Asian Games light-flyweight titleholder Harry Tañamor heads the Nationals who will show their wares.

NCA derby slated May 9 at Roligon

MORE THAN 60 FIGHTS ARE ON TAP IN THE NATIONAL COCKERS ASSOCIAtion's first five-cock derby for the month on May 9 at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. Host Iggy Arroyo, owner of perennial NCA derby champions Red Creek I and Red Creek II entries, said respected names in local cockfighting are vying for top honors. Also expected to compete are Binangonan Balbina I and Binangonan Balbina of Ito Ynares, solo champion in the NCA 5-cocker last April 25; Wild Wing Sundance and Magic Wing Sundance of Ronnie Puno; AA Mulawin of Rudy Albano; Mulawin C VGB of F. Berin; Firefly 100 RM and Firefly RM 13 of the Firefly Group and William Go, respectively; BS Fatman S. Bacolod of Tony Tan and Pepito Ngo; Zabong RT 114 of JV Magsaysay; Lucky Rin Firefly Binangonan and Lucky Rin Firefly Binangonan I of Ric de Guzman and Rene Medina.

Labanan 5-cocker gets going in Pasay

A CASH POT OF P400,000 IS AT STAKE IN THE PCCA LABANAN 5-COCK DERBY which gets going at 5 p.m. today at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complex-or 3000 as sponsor. Members of the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association lead the participants, said pit manager Eric dela Rosa. Among those gunning for the title are Pepito Ngo, Sam Mendoza, Ric de Guzman, Gov. Ito Ynares, Allan Siaco, Tito Reyes, Tony Lasala, Rod Villarubio, Bong Garcia, Boy Layag, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Jake Macasaet, Charlie Lao, Walter Villanueva, Ramon Mancenares, Frankie Uy, Manny and Arman Santos and Roger Segismundo.

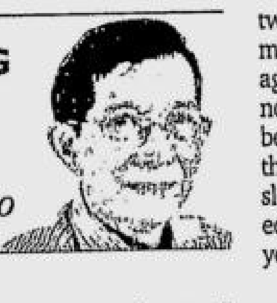
Last call for Makati's 'Salpukan' entries

COCKERS AND BREEDERS FROM THE PROVINCES HAVE UNTIL TODAY TO submit their entries in the ongoing "Summer Salpukan" 6-cock derby at the Makati Coliseum. Entries will be accepted from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. The fifth and last qualifying round (3-cocker) sizzles tomorrow. The derby is staking P4.4 million in cash and in kind for an entry fee of P11,000. Participants are vying for P3 million in total cash prizes, plus two brand new Toyota cars and two motorcycles). Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co said that the Toyota Vios will be won by the fastest-win champion (last fight in the championship round). The Toyota Altis will be given to the participant with the fastest winning time (combination of all six fights). For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

BOXING IN THE BARANGAY: Fistorama producer and boxing promoter Edgardo "Boy" Cantada (fourth from left) barangay councilor Eduardo Saturno (third from left) seal with a handshake an agreement to bring Fistorama "live" to Barangay Bantug in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, on May 15 at 5 p.m. Looking on are (from left) Job Tuibeo, Diones Bernabe, city councilor Albert Castañeda and Dominador de la Cruz.

Who'll stop Taiwan's pool juggernaut?

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

WITH ITS VAST RESERVOIR OF POOL TALents, Taiwan is tipped to win this year's San Miguel Beer Asian 9-Ball Tour which gets going today at the Nguyen Du Sports Hall in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

"Players from Chinese Taipei will be our biggest threat," said 2004 Asian Tour winner Efren "Bata" Reyes in a recent interview. "They are always dangerous."

Reyes will lead a star-studded Philippine contingent that also includes Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Marlon "Marvelous" Manalo.

Aside from players from Taiwan, the Philippines is also ranged against hand-picked hotshots from other Asian countries, including South Korea, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Singapore, Brunei, Hong Kong and Vietnam. After Ho Chi Minh, the four-leg Asian Tour goes to Bangkok, Thailand (June 2-4); Kaohsiung, Taiwan (Aug. 4-6); and Jakarta, Indonesia (Sept. 15-17).

"I'll try my best to win again," Reyes humbly said. "If I don't suffer from my weak break, I think my chances of winning are good."

Philippine billiards "godfather" Aristeo "Putch" Puyat agreed: "Our players are ready to do battle against the region's best and brightest, especially the players from Chinese Taipei," said Puyat. "These players from Taiwan are dynamic shooters and masters of the jump shots, particularly boy wonder Wu Chia-ching." Wu won last year's World Pool Championship at age 16. Puyat organized the recent first Enerva Asian Ladies 9-Ball tournament won by world champion Kim Ga-young of South Korea.

Who are the leading Chinese Taipei players in the Asian Tour? Herewith, in no special order, are the Taiwanese players to watch:

• YANG CHING-SHUN: Known as the "Son of Pool" in billiards circles, Yang won the overall title of last year's $250,000 Asian Tour. While he is "Mr. Cool" personified at the pool table, fans are forewarned not to be deceived by his appearance. Behind that quiet demeanor is a mean machine, a player oozing with awesome skills, creativity and booming breaks. A winner of the individual gold medal in the 2002 Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, Yang also won the 2005 Philippine International 9-Ball Open. He topped last year's third leg of the Asian Tour in his hometown, Kaohsiung.

• WU CHIA-CHING: A pool prodigy from Taishang county in Taipei, Wu won last year's World Pool Championship in Kaohsiung to become the sport's youngest ever world champion at 16. The previous youngest world pool winner was American Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer, who won the crown in 1992 when he was 23. Banking on his explosive breaks and dogged desire to win, Wu never lost his cool in defeating 27-year-old compatriot Kuo Po-cheng, 17-16, in the nail-biting finals of the 2005 World Pool Championship. Wu is possibly the sport's most feared player at present.

• CHAO FONG-PANG: A veteran internationalist, Chao is a three-time Asian champion from 2000-02 and a two-time winner of the World Pool Championship (1993 and 2000). He was the first Asian to win the world pool title twice. Called "Cold-Faced Killer" by the sports media, Chao launched his checkered career at age 14. The most experienced among the Chinese Taipei players, Chao may be old as a member of the Taiwanese team, but he is not out of the game. In fact, he has not shown signs of slowing. In my view, Chao should not be counted out because he is still good for some more years.

***

MILESTONE: My family and I offer a toast to the low-profile George Chua, franchise owner of the Red Bull team in the PBA, on the occasion of his birthday today. Simply GCC to his friends, he has a special place in my heart for being sincere, honest and straightforward. There is no upper-class snottiness in the way he treats people, always speaking in measured tones and avoiding personal attacks in stressing his point. A true-blue sportsman, Sir George has regularly supported the annual Philippine Sportswriters Association Awards Night, starting in the mid-1990s when I headed the PSA. It's a gesture he till does up to now.

Sports has always been a part of GCC's life. As a student, he played varsity football at Letran College together with Tony Chua, who is now the Red Bull team manager. He rose from the ranks to become a top executive of Photokina Marketing Corp., a company known for its corporate commitment to various sports like basketball, boxing, golf, bowling and billiards. But it is Photokina's participation in the Philippine Basketball Association which would go down as the company's crowning achievement. Since joining the pro league in 2000, GCC's team has won three titles, one runner-up trophy, one third-place plum and two fourth-place finishes. "I could not have asked for more," he said after his team's latest achievement.

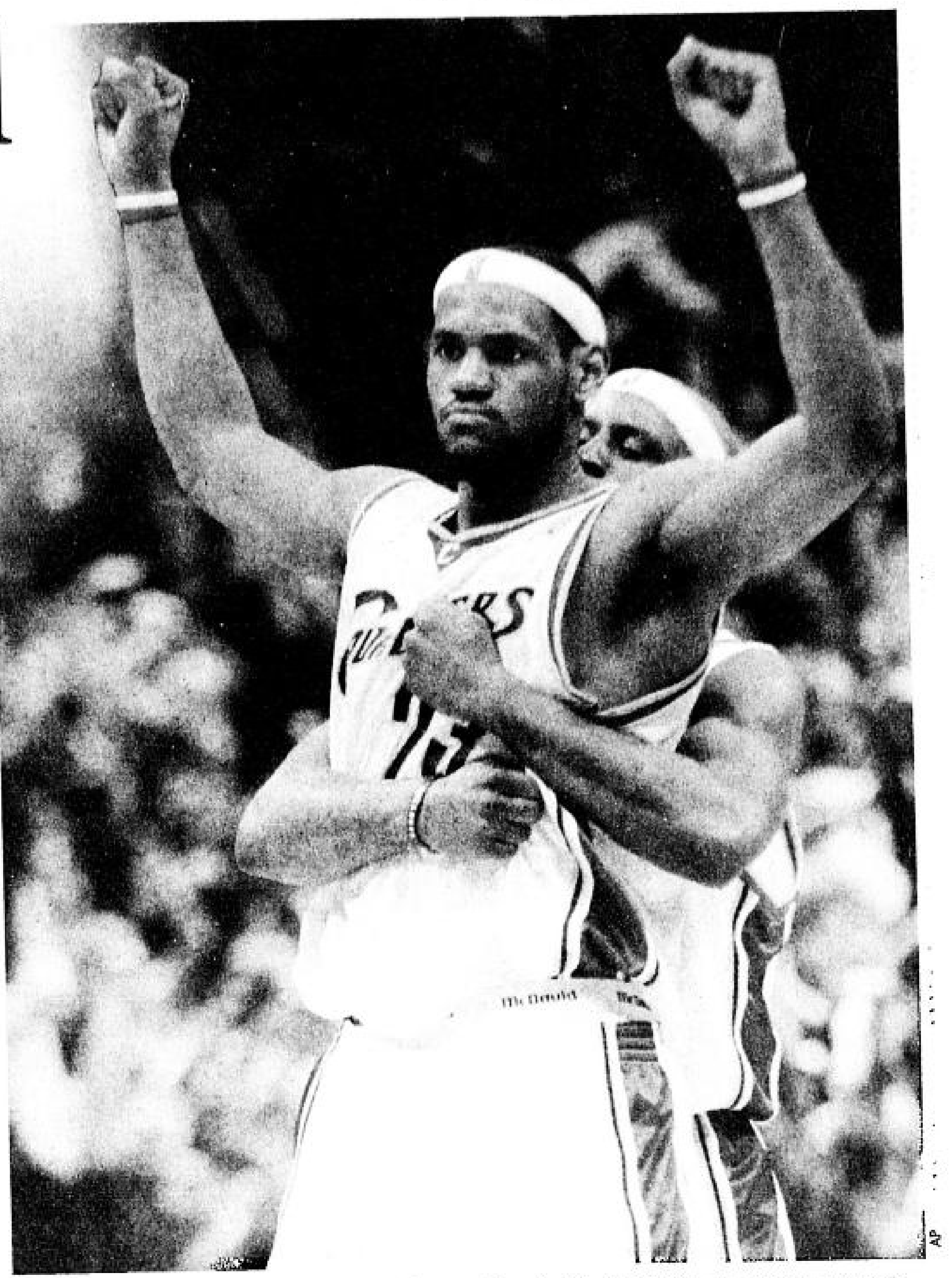
RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Love And Honey (1), Danielle's Angel (5), Naman Naman (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Bobon Lancer (1), Maricor's Charm (7), Princess Thor Thor (3), Beautiful Aira (6)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Adam's Call (5), Qui Paris (1), Monalisa (2), Big Spender/Money Matters (3)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Carl's Game (6), Silver Place (4), Latina (2), Virgin Island (1)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Ahoy My Boy (5), Surprise Target (6), Virginia (3), War Alert (7)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Medal's Time, Juan Marco (1), Silver Cho Cho (4), Song Bird (6), Jokes Only (8)
Race 7—(Fox1 Tough (1), Run Like D'Wind (1), Thor Simba (2), Andorra (4)
Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Manila's Style (8 Forever Joyce (2), U Are My Sunshi (3), Reigns Supreme (6), D As In Dixie (4
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Tervalac (1 King Yoji (9), Red Storm (6), the Dom nator (7), Truly Impressive (5), Tir Enchanted (8)

LeBron casts spell on Wizards in OT

Pistons cruise to second round



LEBRON James (23) celebrates with Flip Murray after the Cavs' 121-120 win over the Wizards.

AP

CLEVELAND, OHIO—LEBRON JAMES SCORED THE LAST OF HIS 45 POINTS on a decisive layup with nine-tenths of a second to play in overtime, rallying Cleveland for a 121-120 over Washington in the NBA playoffs Wednesday.

The triumph gave the Cavaliers a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference first-round series entering Friday's game six at Washington, where Cleveland can advance with a victory to a second-round matchup against Detroit.

Defending conference champion Detroit, led by Richard Hamilton's career playoff-high 40 points, routed visiting Milwaukee 122-93 to capture their first-round series four games to one.

But it was the finishing flourish of James that stole the show as the Cavaliers, who snapped an eight-year drought by just making the playoffs, moved within a victory of their first playoff series triumph since 1993.

Washington's Gilbert Arenas scored the last of his 44 points on two free throws with 3.6 seconds remaining in the extra session to give the Wizards a 120-119 edge.

The Cavaliers in-bounded the ball to James, who eluded Antawn Jamison on the baseline and moved to the basket, leaping high and dropping the ball in the hoop for the game-winning points in the last split-second.

The Cavaliers led by eight points in the final minutes of over-time before the Wizards closed with a 7-0 run, forcing over-time on the second of back-to-back baskets by Caron Butler with 7.5 seconds remaining in regulation.

"To lose after being up by eight with a minute and a half to go, it could have sunk our ship," James said. "We just found a way to win. It shouldn't have gone to overtime. We had some execution problems. But things happen.

"You can't let adversity kill your spirit."

Jamison finished with 32 points while Butler had 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Wizards, who face elimination Friday at home unless they can force a seventh game here Sunday.

"King James" produced the highest-scoring night so far in the playoffs and the game marked the first time players from rival teams had reached 40 points in the same playoff game since Shaquille O'Neal and Allen Iverson in the 2001 NBA Finals.

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Rasheed Wallace added 22 points and Chauncey Billups 17 for the top-seeded Pistons, who seized a 39-23 lead after the first quarter thanks largely to Hamilton and stayed tough to the finish.

Hamilton, shrugging off a left ankle injury that he suffered in the fourth quarter of game one, was shooting only 34 percent from the field in the series but went 5-of-6 in the first period and scored 15 points.

Hamilton scored nine more points in the second quarter that ended with the Pistons holding a 62-49 half-time edge.

"That's not what we wanted to start off the game," Milwaukee's Michael Redd said. "We definitely started sluggish, down, and in this game you have to play like a madman against a great team. We didn't do that and they made us pay for it."

Hamilton kept it going by making 6-of-7 shots and scoring 16 points in the third quarter, making 15-of-23 overall before departing to a standing ovation early in the fourth quarter.

Tayshaun Prince scored 12 points and Antonio McDyess added 11 while Ben Wallace grabbed 14 rebounds for Detroit.

Michael Redd scored 23 points and Dan Gadzuric added 13 for the eighth-seeded Bucks. Australian forward Andrew Bogut scored 10 points. *AFP*

Solar Sports will air the Phoenix-LA Lakers tussle at 10:30 a.m. with a replay at 8 p.m.

Suns' Bell silenced with 1-game suspension

NEW YORK—PHOENIX GUARD RAJA Bell will be forced to watch Thursday's critical playoff game from the bench after being suspended for one game here Wednesday by the National Basketball Association.

Bell received the punishment after a flagrant foul against Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant for "unnecessary and excessive contact," NBA vice president of basketball operations Stu Jackson said.

The Suns trail the Lakers three games to two in the best-of-seven opening round series. The winner will advance to a Western Conference semi-final against the Los Angeles Clippers.

Bell fouled Bryant with 7 minutes and 33 seconds remaining in the fourth period of the Suns 114-97 victory over the visiting Lakers on Tuesday night.

As Bryant was driving into the lane, Bell wrapped his arm around Bryant's neck and send the Lakers' playmaker to the floor. Referees ejected Bell, who has served as the primary defender against Lakers' scoring leader Bryant.

The second-seeded Suns will travel to seventh seed Los Angeles for game six Thursday needing a victory to force a seventh game in Phoenix on Saturday.

Bell complained that his aggressive act came only after Bryant was allowed to foul him without being whistled by the referees.

"It's a personal thing when someone continually hits you in the face," Bell said Wednesday after the ban was announced. "I continue to get hit in the face. There doesn't seem to be any boundaries to anything he can do to me." Told of Bell's complaints, Bryant said he had no idea what made it so personal for Bell.

"I don't know this kid. I haven't said four words to him," Bryant said. "Maybe he wasn't hugged enough as a kid." *AFP*

HIDAYAT: Top attraction

Badminton Open lures world No.1

WITH A TALENT-LADEN FOREIGN CAST, THE first Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open Badminton Championships presented by PLDT Business Solutions is expected to give local badminton a shot in the arm when it is staged May 24-28 at the Philsports Arena.

No less than reigning Olympic and world champion Taufik Hidayat has endorsed the staging of the event, saying it will further raise the level of play here and at the same time help develop local players of world-class caliber.

"The physique of the Filipinos is identical to most of the world champions whom I have played with," said Hidayat. "The only element needed for major success by Filipino players is more international competitions."

The Indon ace, the first player to win both the Olympic and world singles crown, has been hobbled by injuries the last few months but is expected to lead the foreign challenge in the event, the first IBF (International Badminton Federation) "four-star" tournament to be staged here which offers a total cash prize of $120,000.

Hidayat saw action here last year when he slugged it out with the other world-caliber players in the MVP Cup.

The RP Open, sponsored by Bingo Bonanza and JVC (Phils.), Inc., gives local players the chance to obtain world-ranking points.

"We'd like to thank Ford Phils. for sponsoring the tournament and our 36 members for their active participation and support," said Federation League president Ogie Manalo.

Tickets are available at all Ticketworld outlets.

Petron taekwondo May 6-7

AROUND 1,000 JINS FROM METRO MANILA AND the provinces are expected to see action in the 2006 Petron New Face of the Year taekwondo championships slated May 6-7 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado said competition will be conducted in eight categories—senior men and women, junior men and women, mid-junior men and women and grade school boys and girls. Petron, Milo, Philippine Sports Commission and Accel are supporting the event, which starts at 9 a.m.

Tiger loses 'best friend, greatest role model'

WOODS hugs his father Earl on May 19, 1997 during an American Express press conference in New York. AFP

LOS ANGELES—EARL WOODS, WHO inspired and molded his son Eldrick into a golf legend, died Wednesday at age 74, superstar child Tiger Woods and wife Kultida at his bedside just before cancer claimed his life.

"He was my best friend and greatest role model and I will miss him deeply," Woods said in a Wednesday night posting on his website.

"He was the person I looked up to more than anyone. He was instrumental in helping me develop the drive to achieve, but his role—as well as my mother's—was one of support and guidance, not interference." Earl Woods died in the Cypress, California, home where he and his Thai wife raised their famous son, the 10-time major champion announced on his website.

"I'm very saddened to share the news of my father's passing at home early this morning," Woods said.

"My dad was my best friend and greatest role model, and I will miss him deeply. I'm overwhelmed when I think of all of the great things he accomplished in his life. He was an amazing dad, coach, mentor, soldier, husband and friend.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without him, and I'm honored to continue his legacy of sharing and caring." Former Green Beret soldier Earl Woods had been battling prostate cancer since 1998. He was treated with radiation but in 2004 the cancer returned and spread to other areas of his body.

"All of us at the PGA Tour are very saddened to learn of the passing of Tiger Woods' father Earl. Our hearts and deepest sympathies go out to Tiger and his family during this very sad time," PGA Tour commisioner Tim Finchem said.

"Earl Woods will always be remembered for the tremendous way in which he and Tiger's mother Kultida provided Tiger with every opportunity to develop the physical and mental qualities that enabled Tiger to become the world's best golfer."

Dozens of PGA rivals expressed their sorrow to Woods and his family, appreciating the legacy Earl Woods left to the sporting world in his son.

Concerns over his father's health prompted Woods to make a round-trip cross country flight for a visit on the eve of the Player's Championship in March.

His father's health was a worry as he played last month's Masters tournament, the first time his father had not made the trip to Georgia to watch his son at the event.

One of the enduring moments in Woods' career was the scene of him hugging his father after walking off the 18th green at Augusta National Golf Club following his 1997 Masters victory, the first major victory by a black golfer. *AFP*

Ford satellite regionals up

ACTION IN THE FORD NATIONAL TEAM shootout shifts into high gear beginning today with the staging of the satellite regional series at The Orchard and Cebu Country Club.

The tilt serves as the second stage of a three-phase series culminating in the grand finals where the top three teams from each of the five regionals will qualify for the championships set at Orchard on May 25 and at Sta. Elena on May 26.

A big field of 340 teams, including a record 90-squad contingent from Orchard, joined the event organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs Phils. Inc. and Swing Magazine with Ford Phils. as the chief sponsor.

"We'd like to thank Ford Phils. for sponsoring the tournament and also to all our 36 club members for their active participation and support to make this tournament a huge success," said Federation president Ogie Manalo.

The foursome of Marthy and Munding del Rosario, Berna Jalosjos and Powie Tugade emerged at the top of the heap with a net score of 60 at the eliminations for the event at the Riviera Golf and Country Club recently.

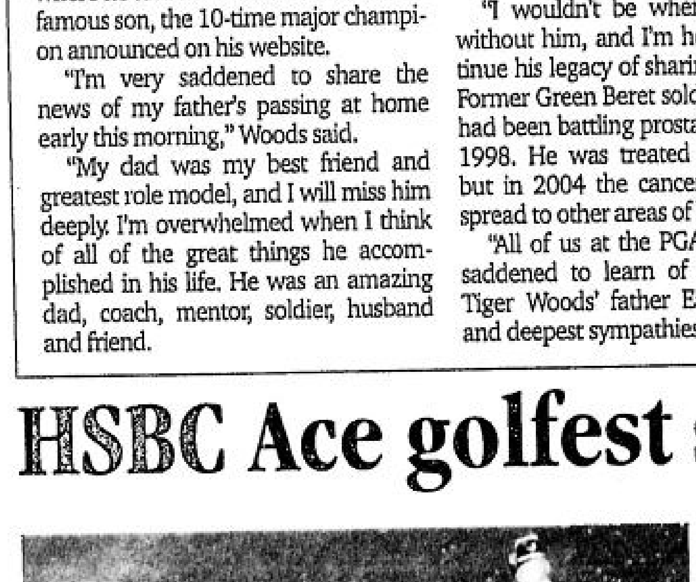
Over at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, the foursome of Oliver Gan, Sunny Sun, Jr., Angelita Co and Vic Sianghio led the field with a net score of 60.

The foursome of Delie Castillejo, Marco Mendoza, Levi Roque and Virgilio Romero topped the Luisita Golf and Country Club qualifier with a net score of 61.

Gerry Silva, Mari Hechanova, Jose Rad Ocampo and Charo Buencamino lit it up with a net score of 59 at the Canlubang Golf and Country Club elims.

For details, contact FedGolf Office at (02) 840-3951 or visit www.swing.ph.

HSBC Ace golfest stakes millions



GOT YA: San Francisco Giants catcher Mike Matheny (left) makes the catch as he falls over the railing of the Milwaukee Brewers dugout with teammate Lance Niekro on a pop up by Brewers Bill Hall in the fifth inning. AP

HSBC IS GEARING UP TO CHANGE THE FACE of amateur golf in the Philippines as it hosts the HSBC Ace Golf Challenge on May 29 at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

A collaboration with ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC), the event is expected to gather 400 golfers from all over the Philippines to simultaneously compete in the Dye, Norman and Faldo courses for over P500 million prizes.

Each course will have two designated par-3 holes that promise P1 million in cash and one million air miles with Philippine Airlines (PAL) as hole-in-one prizes each. One million air miles can take you to Hong Kong 66 times, the West Coast 15 times, Boracay 125 times and many times over to local and international destinations where PAL flies.

Aside from a total of P3 million in cash and three million air miles at stake in the hole-in-one pot for three courses, golfers will vie for 16 major prizes in the tournament that will use the 18-hole stroke play format.

Champions for each of the eight divisions will get a free trip to HSBC Champions tournament in Shanghai, China. Runners-up get P15,000 each.

Wie shoots 70 in SK opener

INCHEON, SOUTH KOREA—MICHELLE WIE putted well Thursday during a first-round, 2-under-par 70 at the SK Telecom Open, remaining in contention for making her first cut at a men's tournament.

The Hawaiian-born teenager was five strokes off the lead in her eighth men's tournament after Australia's Adam Le Vesconte shot a 65. Malaysia's Iain Steel, Lee Sung-ho of South Korea and Australian Brad Kennedy mustered 67s.

Defending champion K.J Choi shot a 68 and shared fifth place with Thailand's Chapchai Nirat, Adam Groom of Australia, South Korea's Cho Hyun-jun, Choi Sang-ho and Choi Kyung-ju, and local amateur hotshots Hur In-hoi and Maeng Dong-seop. *AP*

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SPORTS

THE WORLD'S top cue artists gather for the 2006 San Miguel Beer Asian 9-Ball Tour which reels off today in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Efren "Bata" Reyes, spearhead of the four-strong RP challenge, presents autographed billiard balls to Ramon S. Ang (center), SMC president and COO, during the "Magician" recent visit to the SMC executive offices. With them are Faustino F. Galang (second from right), San Miguel Beer Division president; Menlou B. Bibonia (right), SMC senior vice president for corporate marketing, and Jimbo Anonas (left), SMC AVP, Beer Marketing.

SMB ASIAN 9-BALL

Bata, 3 others open RP bid

POOL ICON EFREN "BATA" REYES HEADS A crack four-man Philippine team competing in the inaugural leg of the 2006 San Miguel Beer Asian 9-Ball tour which starts today at the Nguyen Du Hall in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Accompanying Reyes, already enshrined in the international billiards Hall-of-Fame, are former world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante, former World Pool champ Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan, and Marlon Manalo, semifinalist in the World Pool last year in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

The only ranking billiards tour in the region offers a total pot of $40,000 for each of its four legs this year. Also scheduled are the Bangkok, Kaohsiung and Jakarta legs.

Aside from the cash prizes, the top 10 finishers in the Tour's Order of Merit will advance to the 2006 World Pool Championships slated Nov. 4-12 in Manila.

"I believe that our players will do well," said billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat. "They are really world-class."

"We are hoping that one of us will bring home the trophy," said Manalo in Filipino.

After the Ho Chi Minh leg, the Tour will go to Bangkok, Thailand, on June 2-4. The third stop will be staged in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, on Aug. 4-6 and the last leg in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Sept. 15-17.

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

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RYAN LIM

Sarah Geronimo overworked?

'Sometimes I tell my mom when I'm too tired to do a show'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

A DAY BEFORE THE LAUNCH of the new *sineserye* (movie-based soap opera) "Bituing Walang Ningning," teen singing champ Sarah Geronimo checked herself into a hospital.

It was right after "ASAP," the Sunday noontime variety show of ABS-CBN, where she's one of the featured performers, Sarah recalled.

And then, the following day, she was back onstage, belting it out with "Bituin" co-stars Zsazsa Padilla and Angelika de la Cruz—at the Music Museum.

Right after the launch program, Sarah took a French leave because she "had to go back to the hospital."

INQUIRER Entertainment caught up with her backstage.

She admitted that she had been on needles and pins lately. "*Kinakabahan at kinikilabutan* [nervous and afraid]" was how Sarah described the way she felt. "I'm so happy that they trusted me enough to portray a role (Dorina) previously played by the Megastar (Sharon Cuneta). [But] it's overwhelming."

Overwhelmed, overjoyed… is Sarah also overworked?

"Not really," she said. "I just need to take it easy. I had [sore] throat. I have to take care of my voice. *Ito ang puhunan ko* (This is my asset)."

Asked exactly how she was feeling, she said: "I just need to rest my voice because it's been overused—all the tapings, concerts, promotions

SARAH/ A2-2

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

CHERYL Burke: The champ's home.

Cheryl whacked partner Drew during tilt finals

By Marinel R. Cruz

FILIPINO-AMERICAN CHERYL BURKE emerged as grand champ—with partner 98 Degrees' Drew Lachey—in the last season of ABC's "Dancing with the Star," but not before "one really embarrassing" moment.

"I whacked Drew in the nose and made him bleed," Cheryl said during her first meeting with the members of the local entertainment press on Tuesday. "I was making this turn and my elbow ran right into his nose."

Obviously, Drew recovered, and they danced on to snatch the coveted trophy.

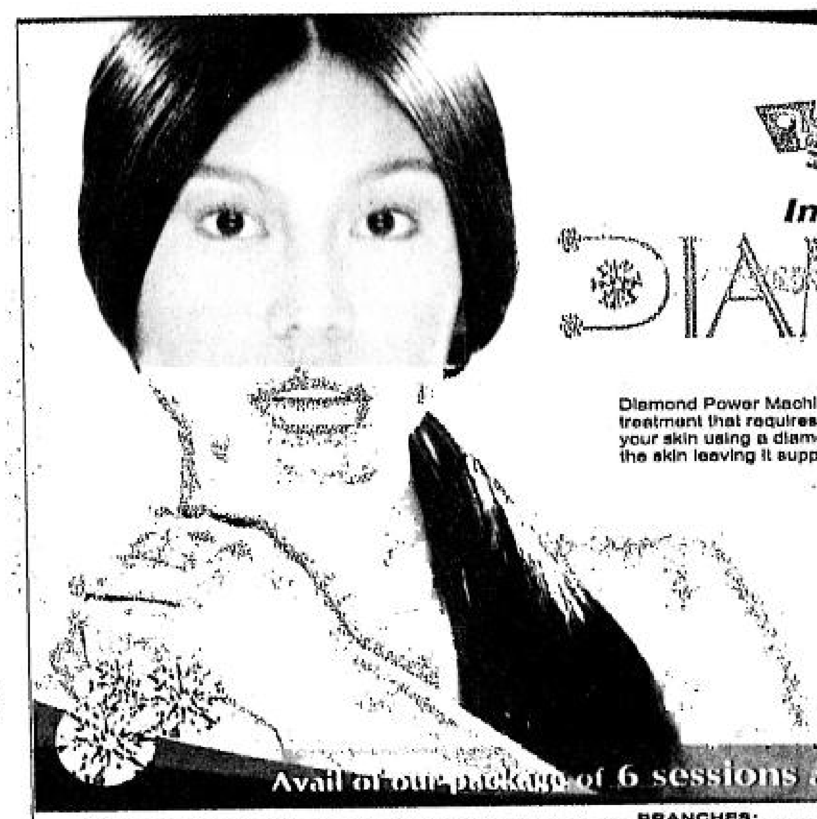
Hard day

Cheryl said she had somewhat expected "something bad to happen that day."

"It had been a hard day. We were all tired," Cheryl pointed out.

According to the dancer-choreographer, she met Drew on the very day she signed on for "DWTS." She explained: "They don't tell you who you're dancing with."

CHERYL/ A2-3



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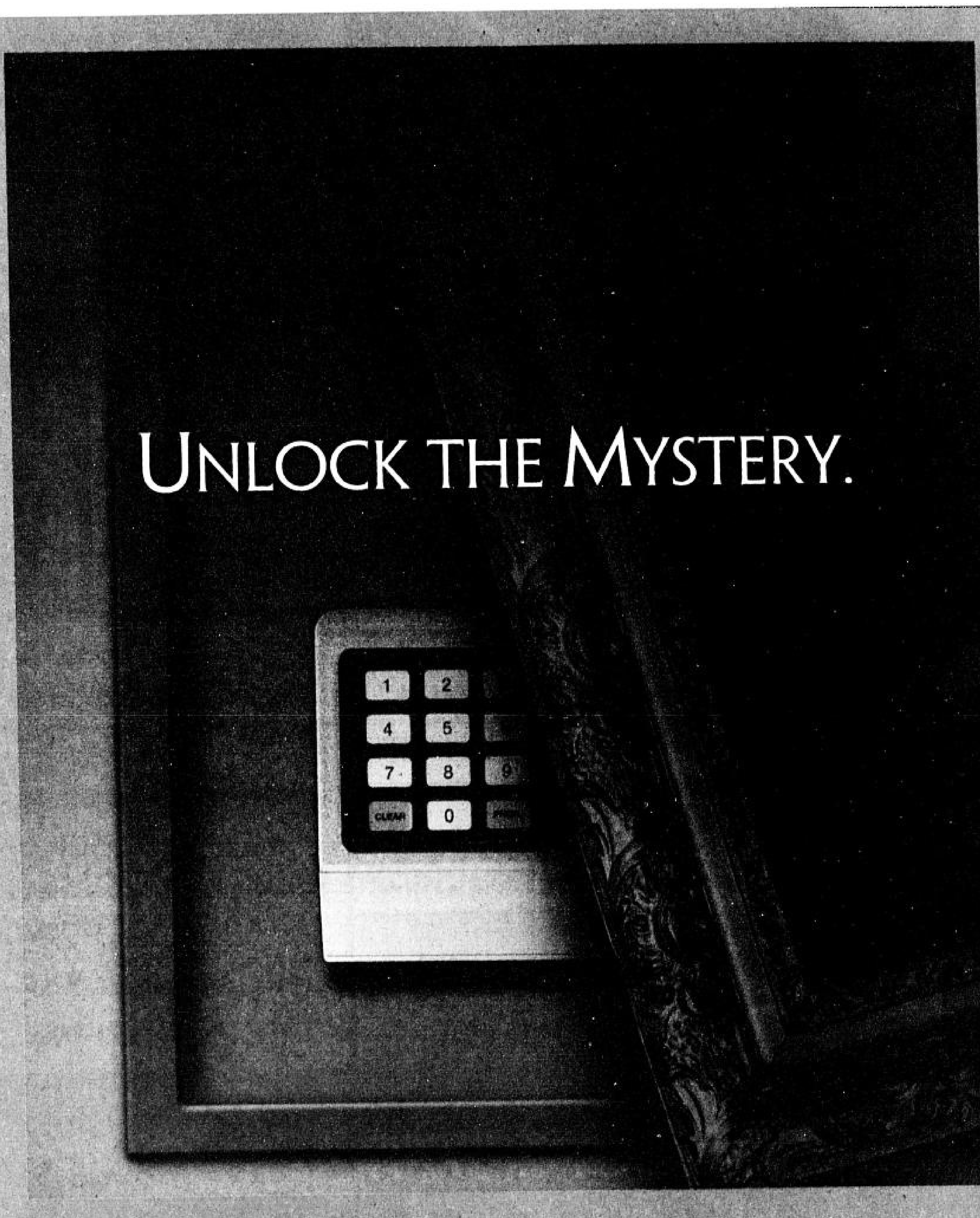

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Sarah Geronimo overworked?

From page A2-1

for the soap, recording of the soap's soundtrack. I just came home from shows in Canada, where it was very cold."

Does she ask her mom permission to miss work now and then?

"Sometimes," she admitted. "I tell her when I'm too tired. But I've come to accept that, being an actress-singer, it's my responsibility to show up and honor all my commitments."

Longing

She said she related well with

SARAH/ A2-3

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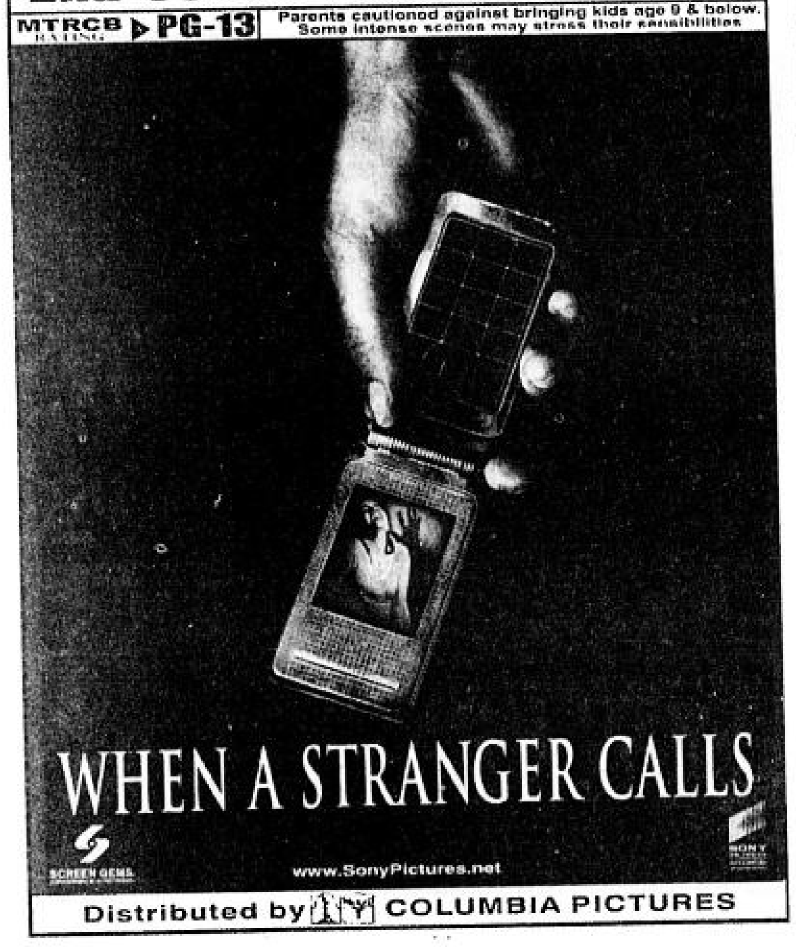

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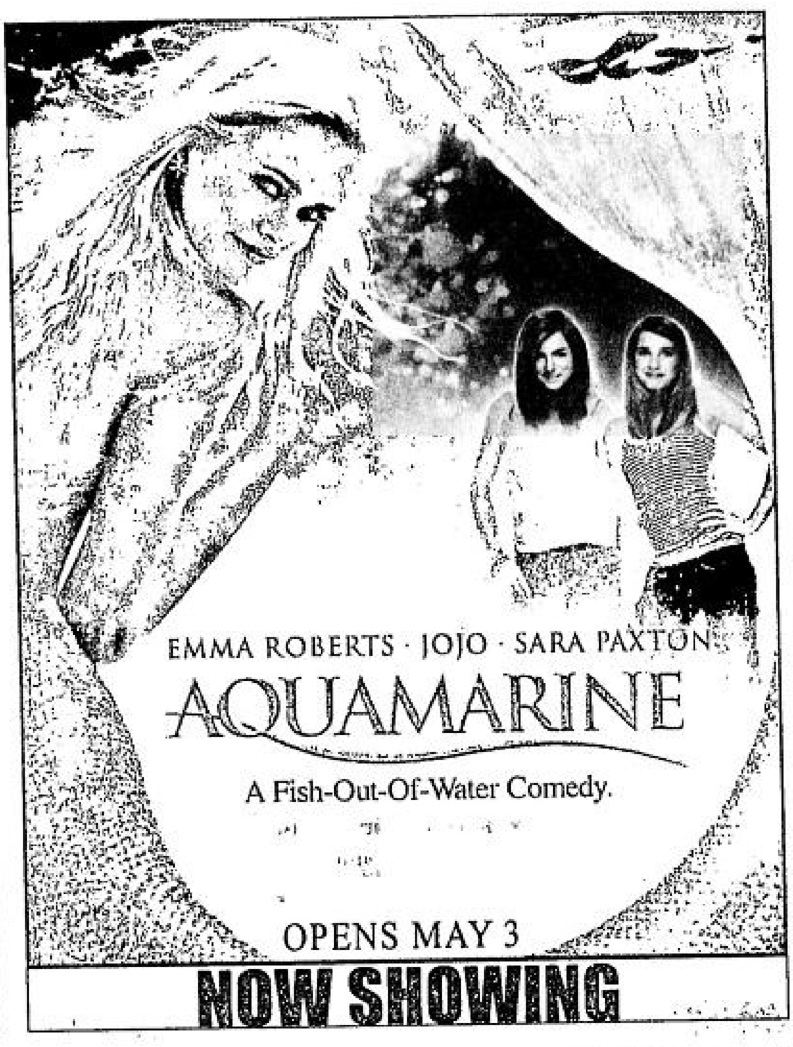
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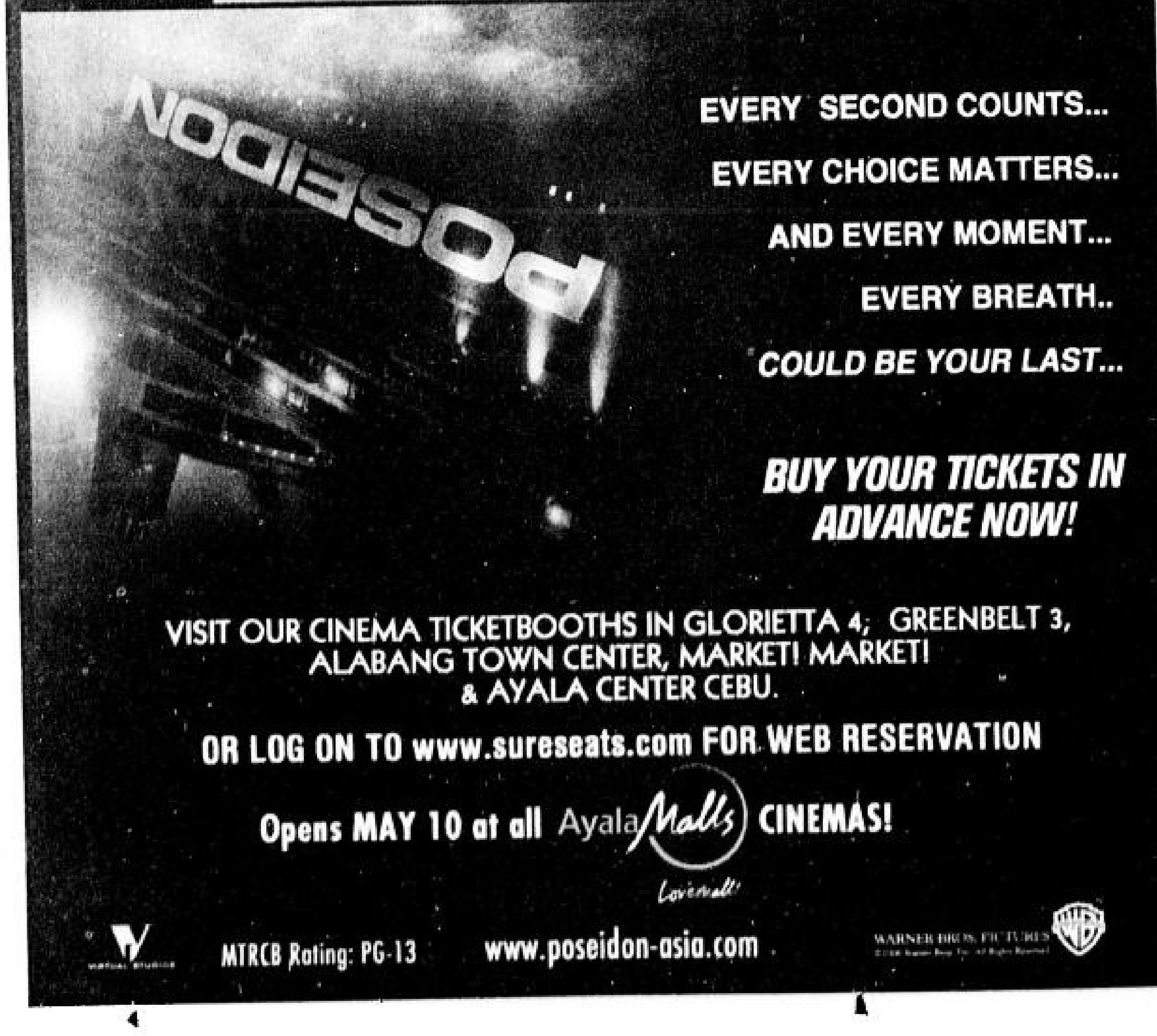
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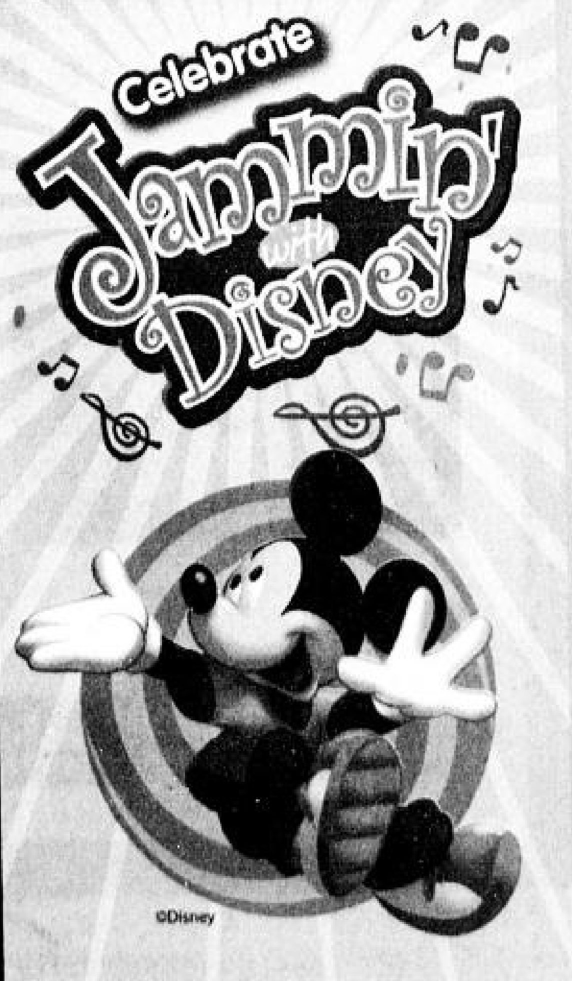

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Sarah Geronimo overworked?

From page A2-2

the opening stanza of the song "Bituing Walang Ningning." (The *sineserye* premieres May 15.)

"It says that even if you've achieved your dreams, you still long for something," she said. "*Meron pa ring konting lumbay.* (There's still a certain sadness.)"

It's probably the inevitable sacrifices she has had to make for fame and fortune. "I've been so busy, I've had to give up truly important things, like time with my family. When I get home, my siblings are asleep. I can't even hug them or talk to them as often as I used to."

Not that she's not grateful to the biz.

"I'm thankful because I've fulfilled my dreams," she said.

But it's a tough balancing act, she acknowledged. "I also have my studies to take care of. It's important to me that I finish school. I'm a high school senior under the home study [program] of the Angelicum College."

She intends to take up a music-related course in college.

Her calendar is so crammed, it looks like she will be celebrating her debut on the soap. (Yes, it will be incorporated in the show, according to the soap's directors Jerome Chavez Pobocan and Erick C. Salud.)

Sarah turns 18 on July 25.

Maybe a vacation would be the best gift for the hardworking champ? *With a report from Valerie Cruz*

Cheryl whacked partner…

From page A2-1

They were both very nervous at the start, Cheryl said. "Later, I came to him as a down-to-earth person—he didn't seem like a celebrity at all. We communicated really well. He's hardworking and always determined to do a good job; it's easy for me to teach someone like that."

The New York-based dancing champ and her mom, Sherrie Bautista-Burke are in town for a weeklong visit. On her birthday (May 2), Cheryl paid a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang.

Did you know that you're big news here?

No. But I'm sure I wouldn't have won if not for all the support that I got from Filipinos.

How have you been since your victory?

Drew and I visited a lot of shows. We have been on the "Elen Degeneres" show. That was a nice experience. We also did "The View" in New York, "The Tony Danza Show" and "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" To this day, I have so many celebrities, like Samuel L. Jackson, coming up to me saying, "Wow! I enjoyed the show." Teri Hatcher from "Desperate Housewives" said she watched, too.

How easy was it to teach Drew?

Drew is a quick learner. He put a lot of time into it. He never complained. He wanted to win. I hope to have a partner like him again next season.

Do you see yourself crossing over to acting?

I definitely plan on capitalizing on what I'm good at. But it wouldn't hurt to take acting lessons on the side. You'll never know. One day maybe I could dance *and* act in a show or a movie where I could dance but need to act as well.

Have you tried auditioning on Broadway?

Not yet. We'll see in the future. I definitely want to keep doing "Dancing with the Stars" and see where that takes me. I'm taking it slow, I want to make the right decisions.

(Cheryl will be featured on ABS 5's "Shall We Dance" and ABS-CBN's "The Buzz," "Wowowee," "ASAP," "Private Conversations with Boy Abunda," "HomeBoy," "Breakfast" and "Myx.") With Sheena Jade Barrion and Valerie Cruz

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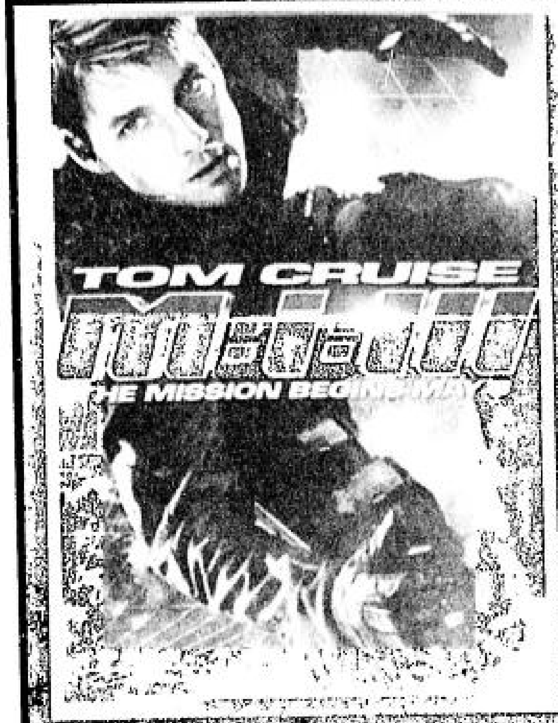
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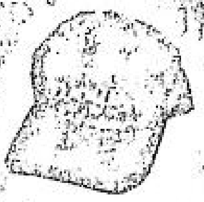

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CINEMA 1
M:I:III
CINEMA 2
M:I:III

SM MEGACINEMA
THE WILD
SENTINEL
M:I:III
SILENT HILL
AQUAMARINE
AMERICA
SUBMERGED
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M:I:III
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D LUCKY ONES
PAMAHIIN

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M:I:III
THE WILD
SILENT HILL
M:I:III
PAMAHIIN
D LUCKY ONES
AQUAMARINE
SENTINEL

SM CITY DASMARINAS
AMERICA
PAMAHIIN
SHE'S THE MAN
M:I:III

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
SUBMERGED
SENTINEL
AMERICA
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PAMAHIIN
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THE WILD
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EIGHT BELOW
ICE AGE 2
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SM CITY STA. MESA
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WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
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THE WILD
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SM CITY BICUTAN
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SENTINEL
SILENT HILL
THE WILD

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
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SM CITY MANILA
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WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
SILENT HILL

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SILENT HILL
THE WILD
AMERICA
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AMERICA

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D LUCKY ONES
THE WILD
M:I:III
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AMERICA
PAMAHIIN
M:I:III
SILENT HILL
THE WILD
M:I:III
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SUBMERGED

SM CITY STA. ROSA
AMERICA
SENTINEL
PAMAHIIN
M:I:III

SM CITY PAMPANGA
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M:I:III
THE WILD
D LUCKY ONES
GRANDMA'S BOY
PAMAHIIN

SM CITY LUCENA
NANNY McPHEE
M:I:III
D LUCKY ONES
EIGHT BELOW

SM CITY MOLINO
M:I:III
M:I:III
THE WILD
SUBMERGED

VISAYAS MINDANAO

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M:I:III
M:I:III
SENTINEL
NORTH COUNTR
THE DARK
CHINESE TALL STORY
D LUCKY ONES
M:I:III

SM CITY ILOILO
D LUCKY ONES
RESERVED
M:I:III
THE WILD
M:I:III
SILENT HILL
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GLORY ROAD
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THE WILD
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Waiting for the other shoe to fall

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THESE PAST DAYS, entertainment workers and show biz buffs have been excitedly waiting for the other shoe to fall in various areas of specific interest:

On the film front, when will the MTRCB announce the classification it's giving to "The Da Vinci Code," due for showing in the Philippines next month?

Some are hoping it will be "X-ed," being an "attack" on the Christian faith due to its speculation that **Jesus Christ** had a romantic relationship with **Mary Magdalene**, and that a daughter resulted from their union.

More viewers want the MTRCB to classify the movie "For Adults" (R-18) because, in their view, its provocative speculations require a mature mind to properly handle.

The film has been classified PG-13 in the States, which means that even youths can see it there, provided they're accompanied by adults.

With this more liberal rating, the US classifiers are saying that the movie isn't as potentially harmful to young viewers as the "For Adults" proponents fear.

That's why there are a number of Filipino film buffs who hope that the film will also get a PG-13 rating here.

Just to add another layer of instructive relevance to the ongoing discussion—"The Da Vinci Code"' will be shown in the People's Republic of China, and the censors there have rated the movie "For General Patronage"!

That's a big surprise, and just goes to show how varying national and ideational contexts can result in strikingly different verdicts.

So, what will the MTRCB's own decision be?

Who's next 'Idol'?

ON TV, the big fuss is over who the 2006 "American Idol" will be. The respective cadres of fans of surviving finalists **Katherine McPhee**, **Chris Daughtry**, **Eliott Yanin**, **Paris Bennet** and **Taylor Nicks** are surely moving heaven, earth and the show's massive text-voting mechanism to make sure that their favorite(s) will win.

The recent defeat of the "sure-fire" likes of **Ace Young** and **Kellie Pickler** has struck dread in the hearts of even consistent top scorers like Chris and Katherine—so, it's anybody's guess who the "ultimate" winner will be.

Any audacious predictions?

Pundaquit Festival

CASA San Miguel, arts and music center of San Antonio, Zambales, welcomes the month of May with free evening concerts in the 13th Pundaquit Festival.

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3 THE SENTINEL 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
4 PAMAHIIN 12:40 3:00 5:20
5 AQUAMARINE 12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00
7 THE WILD 1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
8 SLITHER 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
9 SILENT HILL 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
10 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS 1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

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2 SLITHER 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
3 THE WILD 12:00 1:30 3:00
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4 AQUAMARINE 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
5 THE SENTINEL 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 12:30 2:50 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 SILENT HILL 11:00 1:50 4:30 7:10 9:50

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2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 1:15 4:00 6:45
3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 4:00 6:45 9:15
4 SILENT HILL 12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
5 THE WILD 12:40 2:20 4:00 5:40 7:20 9:00
6 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
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Co-stars sing Tom Cruise's praise

'Tom has a very strong connection with his audience'

J.J. Abrams: "Amazing."

From page A2-6

the top five worst stuntmen in the world (laughter). I had to do a scene where I am walking up the rafters inside the Vatican (a set replica). After a couple of times of trying, I realized that I could do it but I would look uncomfortable. Now, that really doesn't work because it's "Mission Impossible" and I'm meant to look really cool, like I'm eating a *panini* when I'm really running across a rafter 50 feet above the ground. So they had the stunt double there for me who actually looks more like me on screen than I do (laughter). I swear. He's a better actor, too, so I spoke to J.J. and I said, "I can go up and do this but if a stuntman can make me look 10 times more convincing for the audience than I can make myself look, I am quite willing to let a stuntman do it."

RHYS MEYERS: "Dedicated."

HOFFMAN: "Very generous."

J.J. ABRAMS

What was amazing to me were two things. One, Tom knows exactly how much he needs to warm up for stunts. In between takes, instead of walking around or standing, he would be on his bike or doing jump rope, keeping his heart going so his body would stay in the groove or so he wouldn't get hurt pulling a muscle.

The second thing that was amazing is, he would do those stunts and oftentimes in the same day, turn around and do a two or three page dialogue scene. Now, it was amazing for two reasons. I couldn't believe he was prepared for the dialogue scene. Any stuntman wouldn't be doing that scene. He'd be off in ice recovering, on the phone with his insurance company, something, you know (laughter).

But Tom would do these stunts. Then he'd go off, shower up, go through hair and make-up in a turnaround faster than most actors when they just show up in the morning. He'd be there ready for the next scene and you think, "How in the world is this the same guy who just had a harness on, who just did that?"

MONAGHAN: "One of the best."

PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN

I met Tom for the first time when we did "Magnolia." So we got to work in two very different environments. He's very generous and incredibly supportive. People say he is really like that. He was that on "Magnolia." He was like that too in this environment ("MI3" set). He's one on one with you and completely respectful of your ideas and choices. He's not trying to take control. He's not trying to move his weight around or swagger with how much power he might have. He's an actor amongst actors at the workplace and that is true and a good thing.

PAULA WAGNER

We're in Shanghai and there is a scene to be filmed where a truck runs over a character. So we look and we see Tom lying down under a truck. The truck was going to run over him. I said, "I think the truck's too low to the ground." I also said this to someone, "I don't think it's a good idea." The next thing I know, the line producer comes over to me and says, "You better come over right now because they're setting up." I hear the AD going, "All quiet on the set. We're going to do the stunt." Tom's going to do it. The truck's going to run over him as it runs like 60 miles an hour.

Everybody's going, "Yeah, let's go" and Tom's going, "Hey, great." A line producer said, "Hey, we can't do this." I said, "I think we're going to have to just go because I don't want to see this." Everybody started laughing. Tom was playing a joke on me. He's funny. It was a big joke.

MICHELLE MONAGHAN

(On filming a scene where she weds Tom:) It was one of the best days of my professional life (laughter).

KERI RUSSELL

Tom was so excited about jumping off a six-story building with me. I was harnessed to him. I just kept thinking, "The cable guy isn't going to drop Tom Cruise. Therefore, I am not going to die (laughter)." It was three o'clock in the morning and I'm about to jump off a building with Tom Cruise. It's like, "Where is my life?" It was insane but it was really fun.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

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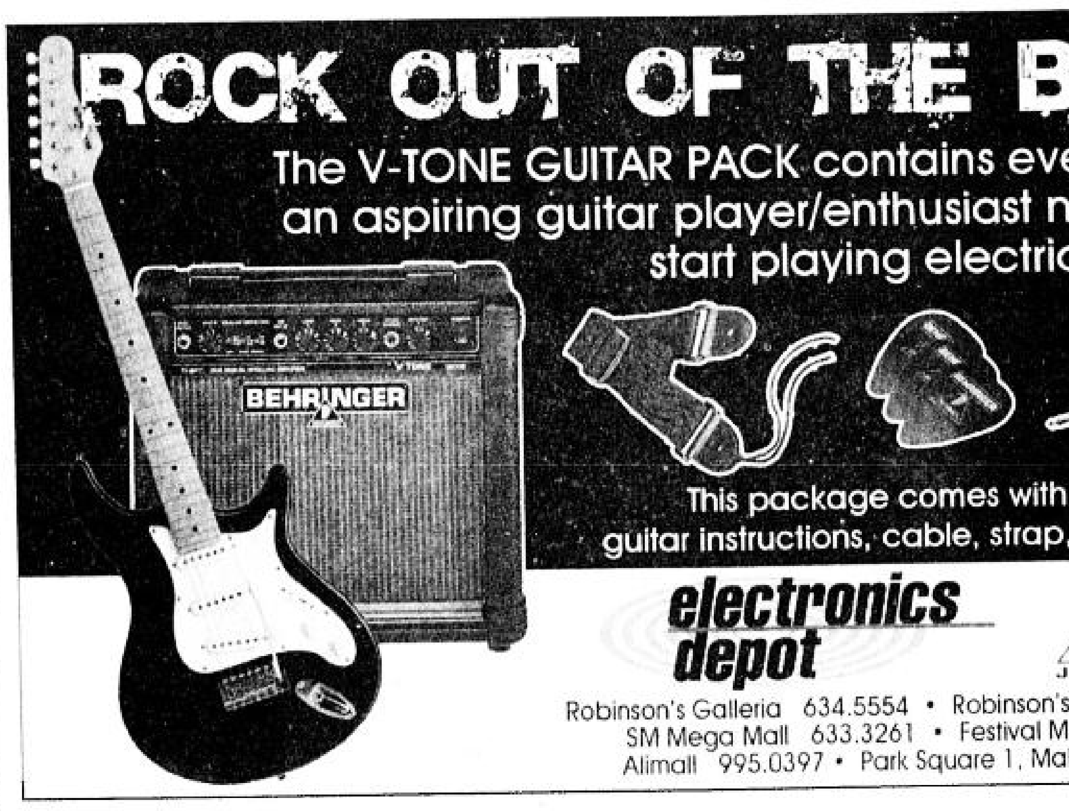

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Co-stars sing Tom Cruise's praise

KERI Russell: "Fun."

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—A DAY BEFORE WE WERE to interview **Tom Cruise**, he and **Katie Holmes** welcomed **Suri** into this world.

So the brand new papa cancelled the press con. Tom's peers in "Mission: Impossible III" ("MI3")—director **J.J. Abrams**, friend and co-producer **Paula Wagner**, co-stars **Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Michelle Monaghan, Keri Russell** and, on a separate day, **Philip Seymour Hoffman**—gamely talked about the absent superstar. Lovely Hong Kong actress **Maggie Q, Laurence Fishburne, Ving Rhames** and **Billy Crudup** are also in the cast but were not in the press con talent lineup.

Paula joined us during our lunch break. Someone threw a question, the perfect one to ask just as we were nibbling on a salad of greens: "You have heard the rumors that Tom ate the placenta [at Suri's delivery]?" Paula, her eyes suddenly grown big, exclaimed, "That was a joke!"

Shot in Shanghai, Rome and the US, "MI3" is a surprisingly personal installment on the continuing saga of Secret Agent Ethan Hunt (played by Tom, of course), thanks in large part to J.J. Abrams, the creator of such well-received TV fare as "Lost," "Alias" and "Felicity" who makes his feature directorial debut. Just named by Time magazine as one of "the 100 most influential people on the planet," J.J. manages to inject some intimacy and emotion to this blockbuster action movie franchise.

Let's begin with Jonathan because he is always a delightful interview. Candid and amusing, this Ireland native won a Golden Globe last January for his terrific portrayal of **Elvis Presley** in a TV mini-series. He has the "distinction" of, from our experience, being the first and so far the only one to go on a toilet break in the middle of an interview. He politely asked for a men's room break when we interviewed him in New York last year for **Woody Allen**'s acclaimed "Match Point." In that same session, **Scarlett Johansson**, whose scenes with Jonathan sizzled onscreen, said that off-screen, the actor loved hear the latest gossip.

JONATHAN RHYS MEYERS

I never saw a Scientology tent on the "Mission Impossible" set. Before I went on the movie, I heard, "Oh, there'll be a Scientology tent." I was looking for it for four months (laughter) and didn't find it. Tom would never talk about his religious beliefs. I don't think he'd want to push it on anybody. I suppose if you are interested in Dianetics and you wanted to talk to Tom about it, I am sure he'd sit down to tell you what it's all about. He never asked me, "Would you be interested in Scientology?"

I never saw any Scientologists on the set, either. Maybe I wouldn't recognize one, but I'd imagine they're just human beings like the rest of us (laughter) so it was never an issue. My friends would ring up from Ireland going, "So are you a Scientologist yet (laughter)?" I am like, "I've been looking for this tent for four months. Maybe they're hiding it from me.

It's strange going.to the circus [in Shanghai] with Tom Cruise. I am sitting in the third row with Philip Seymour and Michelle Monaghan. Sitting behind us are Tom and Katie. It's really funny. The circus is happening out here (points in front of him), yet all the audience is looking there (laughter as he points in the back) so you're kind of doing this the whole time (looks front and behind) because you're not sure which circus is more interesting (laughter).

Tom is incredibly famous all over the world. Tom can't just go and have coffee or a meal in any restaurant. It is an operation because for both his safety, the safety of the people he's with and for his own sense of peace and quiet, he has to arrange things where he avoids those crowds. Everybody wants a minute or a photograph with him.

Tom is one of those people who are so in touch with their audience. I think he spent three hours out there at the circus just posing for photographs and signing autographs because he can't say no. If some 11-year-old kid comes up and says, "I want a photograph with the 'Mission Impossible' man," Tom is not going to walk away from that kid. People have to almost drag Tom away and say, "Tom, no, you can't do that anymore." He feels a really strong connection.

The more successful and the more famous people are, usually the nicer they are. Tom has an awful lot of respect for people because how can you stay at the top of your game for almost three decades without being really respectful? And he works very hard.

Setting the bar high

On the set of "Mission Impossible," we were working 16 hours a day. Tom was always the first there and always the last to leave. As soon as I finish wrapping a day's shooting, I am out the door, in the car, off to my life whereas Tom would go back and start discussing the next day so he's really motivated in that way. I am not quite sure that all successful actors are as dedicated as Tom is.

In the movie, I have a fight on an Italian street with Tom Cruise. I was 9 years old when I watched "Top Gun" so from my point of view, that's kind of strange. I grew up with this face. Tom is more familiar to me than all my schoolteachers were (laughter) because I saw him this big on a 50-foot screen. I never saw my schoolteachers on a 50-foot screen (laughter).

Tom sets the bar incredibly high because he is probably one of the top five stuntmen in the world. He has trained with the best over a period of 20 years so there's nothing that he hasn't been intricately trained to do. Tom does all his own stunts. I was impressed. I remember standing on the set one day and the first AD (assistant director) turned to Tom and said, "We've got a platform. It's about 70 feet up in the air and we're going to tie you like a wire. You're going to pendulum drop 70 feet and swing up the other side." I'm standing next to Tom and he goes, "Cool!" (laughter). I said cool to me is a **John Wayne** triple bill on TV and lots of Reese's Butter Cups. Death-defying pendulum swing at 70 feet above the studio floor is not really my idea of cool but it is Tom's.

I, on the other hand, am not one of the top five stuntmen in the world. I am one of

CO-STARS/ A2-5

One
第一
green tea
檸檬綠茶
One
第一
yellow tea
檸檬冰茶
lemon iced tea
One
第一
red tea
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Neda sees RP economy growing by 5.5% in Q1

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT Authority has projected that the country's economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, grew by more than 5.5 percent in the first quarter of the year due to improved performance of the agriculture sector. *(Full story on Page B4.)*

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NISSAN

Razon buys out Sorianos in ICTSI for ₱5.9B

PRESIDENT Arroyo presses the button during the ceremonial switch on at the inauguration of a biodiesel plant in Quezon City on Wednesday. The Philippines opened what it described as Asia's biggest coconut-based biodiesel plant as the country turns to crops that it produces in abundance like coconuts and sugar to cut its dependence on imported oil. REUTERS

Acquisition boosts holdings of company CEO to 51%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

A. SORIANO CORP. (ANSCOR), THE LISTED HOLDING FIRM OF the Soriano family, has sold its entire 23-percent stake in profitable port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) to the group of Enrique Razon Jr. for P5.9 billion.

Anscor said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its board approved yesterday the sale of its direct and indirect stake in ICTSI at P11.75 each. The 23-percent holdings were equivalent to 503.3 million shares.

The deal was completed yesterday through a cross sale at the PSE. ICTSI closed at P13 a share yesterday.

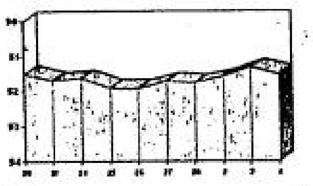
Razon, who sits as ICTSI chair, put up a special-purpose holding firm to acquire and hold the shares for this transaction. Razon's offer of P11.75 a share is payable within 30 days.

In making the offer, Razon told Anscor that he wanted to increase his stake in ICTSI, which he has controlled as chair and chief executive since 1997, Anscor said in its disclosure to the PSE.

RAZON/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



₱51.53 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 4, 2006

¥113.82 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 2, 2006

GOLD: $662.70-663.20

per ounce Hong Kong, May 4, 2006

Shares continue to rise

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.26 PERCENT higher Thursday, extending gains on foreign investor interest sparked by an improved fiscal outlook and expectations of strong first-quarter results, dealers said.

SHARES/ B6

WHAT'S INSIDE

Anscor's P6-B pepper-upper /B5

Bangko Sentral maintains key policy rates /B4

Portofino

THE NEW ALABANG

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Enrile seeks probe of PHC

Bangko Sentral maintains key policy rates

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY BOARD YESTERDAY KEPT the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' key policy rates steady for the seventh straight month in line with its assessment that inflation would slow down starting the second semester.

The BSP's overnight borrowing rate was maintained at 7.5 percent and the overnight lending rate at 9.75 percent.

BSP Officer-in-Charge Diwa Guinigundo yesterday said the outlook for inflation was "manageable" despite temporary spikes caused by the recent hike in the value-added tax rate.

He noted that average inflation rate was expected to return to the target level of 4-5 percent in the absence of renewed domestic or external shocks.

"The board also considered the evidence of stable core inflation, limited demand-based pressures and the absence of second-round effects on wage- and price-setting," Guinigundo said.

The board, however, recognized the remaining risks to the inflation outlook, particularly the recent increases in domestic oil prices.

"The prospect of continued oil price increases in the next few months, along with the expected adjustments in domestic power costs, point to a continuing build-up in supply-side pressures," Guinigundo said.

"Such a prospect increases not only the risks to inflation but also the likelihood of second-round effects," he stressed.

Guinigundo added the Monetary Board's policy priority was to manage inflation expectations as well as the risks of potential second-round effects in wage and price-setting.

"At the same time, given that price pressures remain rooted in supply-side sources, the board will continue to support the use of non-monetary measures by concerned government agencies which can more directly address the impact of increased transport and energy costs," he said.

He said the BSP was committed to achieving the inflation target for 2007 and addressing the risks to inflation.

SEC sets another stockholders' meet

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SENATOR JUAN PONCE ENRILE, ONE OF THE founding shareholders of Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat), yesterday slammed the board of Philcomsat Holdings Corp., including government nominees, for allegedly "dissipating" the assets of the listed firm.

In yesterday's stockholders meeting of PHC, Enrile asked the board to explain where a substantial portion of the P1 billion in cash that PHC allegedly got from Philcomsat was spent.

"PHC is a recipient of almost P1 billion in cash from Philcomsat. I saw the records, the money is now down to P600 million. Where did the money go?" he said.

Enrile also questioned the benefits received by officers and directors of PHC even if the company was incurring huge losses.

Citing the company's 2004 financial reports, Enrile said some directors were getting huge salaries and bonuses. He also said there were officers who received housing loans from the company at a measly 6 percent interest.

"Where in the world can you find a company that pays bonuses to its officers while it is losing?"

"The company is being raided by outsiders. They are nominees of the government and that is the tragedy of it. PHC has become a vehicle to dissipate the assets," Enrile said.

He said he would inform President Macapagal-Arroyo "of the abuses done by PCGG (Presidential Commission on Good Government) nominees in PHC."

He added that he would initiate the holding of a Senate hearing to find out any deficiency in the law that had led to the problems of PHC and to ensure that minority shareholders were protected.

As yesterday's meeting failed to tackle the matters of the PHC board election and validation of proxies, the Securities and Exchange Commission decided to call for another meeting to be held on May 9. The SEC has continued validating proxies for the expected PHC board election.

Enrile was among the company's minority shareholders that also include Jose Ozamiz, and the Africa and Ilusorio families. They control 51 percent of the company.

Tribunal awards FGPC $11.2M

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL PRESIDING OVER the dispute between First Gas Power Corp. and German firm Siemens has made its third interim award of $11.2 million to First Gas and $8.5 million to Siemens.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, First Gas parent firm First Gen Corp. said the award was exclusive of interest which had yet to be determined.

The dispute between the two firms stemmed from delays in the implementation of a turnkey engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract that First Gas entered into with Siemens AG, Siemens Power Generation and Siemens Inc. for the construction of the 1000-megawatt Sta. Rita combined-cycle power facility in Batangas.

"The tribunal is expected to make a final award later in the year to determine outstanding issues regarding interests and costs of the arbitration proceedings," First Gen vice president and compliance officer Victor Santos Jr. said.

In a statement, First Gen vice chair Peter D. Garrucho Jr. said the award had affirmed that FGPC was not responsible for the delays in the implementation of the contract involving the Sta. Rita power plant in 1999 and 2000.

Under the tribunal's third interim award, First Gas was granted $11.2 million, including the $5-million balance of liquidated damages owed by Siemens, for its remaining counterclaims against the German firm. Siemens, for its part, was awarded approximately $8.5 million for its remaining claims against First Gas.

First Gas alleged that delays in the project completion could be attributable to Siemens and its sub-contractors, even as Siemens sought $99.3 million worth of liquidated damages from First Gas pursuant to the provisions of the EPC contract.

First Gas withheld $94.3 million of that amount, prompting Siemens to file a request for arbitration to the International Chamber of Commerce in London in December 2002.

In the arbitration request, Siemens had claimed the payment of the withheld sum, plus some $64 million to cover alleged "prolongation costs" and miscellaneous matters.

The second interim award, which was given in November last year, declared that Siemens was entitled to extensions of time and/or suspension of liquidated damages for 32 days for Block 1 and 60 days for Block 2 of the contract.

The tribunal said First Gas, for its part, was entitled to $99.3 million in liquidated damages for the delay.

Coconut oil is cholesterol free

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

AT A RECENT MEETING OF THE Management Association of the Philippines-Agribusiness and Countryside Development Foundation led by chair Ramon Ilusorio and president Vicente Agustin, a renowned physician participated. He was Dr. Conrado Dayrit, father of former Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, but more importantly, the leading expert on coconut's health benefits.

An important conclusion reached during the meeting was that agribusiness management skills, MAP-ABCD's main strength, had to be harnessed to promote coconuts' extraordinary health attributes. The biggest factor that prevented this from happening was an international campaign launched by management experts that coconut oil was rich in cholesterol.

The truth is the very opposite. Coconut oil is not only completely cholesterol free, it is also very powerful in fighting bacteria, preventing infection, weight reduction and enhancing skin beauty.

Industry's role

Let us take a look at the coconut industry's role in our nation's life. One third of our country's agricultural land (about 3.31 million hectares), covering 64 out of 78 provinces, is planted to coconut.

Philippine coconut exports account for 65 percent of the world-traded coconut products. The local industry supplies 64 percent of global oil requirements. About 24 million Filipinos, or 1/3 of the population, benefit from the coconut industry.

It is, therefore, distressing to find coconut oil attacked in an international media campaign by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, which warned people against all saturated oils. This was based on the assumption that all saturated fats are the same: rich in cholesterol and a cause of heart disease. This is wrong.

Although saturated fats from animal sources and dairy products are cholesterol-rich, coconut oil is derived from a plant and is cholesterol free. In 1986, the CSPI added coconut oil to its list of saturated fat villains. In its publications, it condemned coconut as hydrogenated and cholesterol-rich.

Campaign management

Coconut is a stable oil that does not need to be hydrogenated and has absolutely no cholesterol. The result of the CSPI campaign boosted the use of soybean and other vegetable seed oils, while virtually eliminating coconut oil from the diet of consumers in the developed world.

Just as the CSPI campaign was effectively managed, there is an urgent need to also effectively manage a campaign to counter this false information. We must also promote the little known health benefits of coconut.

While many publications identify these benefits, only a few explained and supported them with the research necessary for an effective promotional campaign. One of these is "RX: Coconuts (The Perfect Health Nut)" by Dr. Vermen Verallo-Rowell. In this book, she cites the research done by Dr. Dayrit and Dr. Jon Kabara of the US.

Two little-known findings

There are two more important findings that are not well known. The first is that coconut oil is rich in lauric acid which, in the intestines, naturally becomes a substance called monolaurine that contains antiseptic properties.

Verallo-Rowell says: "This finding should have been a landmark discovery, much like the discovery that penicillin can be synthesized from the fungus "penicillium" ... Even today, a surprising number of doctors have never heard of monolaurine." As an example of its potency, it was shown that the gel prepared with 1.5 percent monolaurine is as effective as a 70-percent isopropyl alcohol gel in eliminating bacteria immediately.

The second finding is that coconut oil is a medium-chain rather than a long-chain oil. Examples of long-chain oils are those derived from beef, animal fats, fish, and several vegetable and seed oils such as soy bean, canola, corn, cotton seed, and sunflower. Taking medium-chain rather than long-chain oils results in lower body weight, fewer fat deposits, and other weight loss-promoting capabilities.

Verallo-Rowell also says that: "When eating coconut oil, the good HDL cholesterol goes up while the bad LDL remains the same."

Taking coconut oil, therefore, prevents weight gain and accumulation of unhealthy fat deposits. It also enables the increase of good cholesterol that can fight bad cholesterol in one's body.

Conclusion

It is imperative that the same management techniques used to promote the very effective but totally false and destructive campaign against coconut oil be used now to advocate the truth that coconut is "the tree of life." This will redound to the recovery and increased markets that coconut will capture, as well as to the benefit of the millions of coconut farmers who are now mired in poverty.

(The author is Agriwatch chair. For inquiries and suggestions, e-mail agriwatch-phil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

Razon buys out Sorianos in ICTSI for P5.9B

From page B1

In its 2005 annual report, Anscor said that together with the Razon group, they hold directly and indirectly 51 percent of ICTSI.

Anscor management said it accepted Razon's offer since it thought it was "an opportune time" to realize its investment in ICTSI.

"This will enable Anscor to realize the book profits and equity earnings that (it) has accumulated from its investment in ICTSI in the last 18 years representing an annual return of 22 percent," the company said in its disclosure.

Anscor added that the proceeds from the deal would allow the company to share the profits to its shareholders through a special dividend.

The divestment will also allow the company to consider other investment opportunities.

Anscor plans to declare a special one-time cash dividend of P1.25 a share once it receives the sale proceeds on June 4. Anscor's board will meet to approve the dividend and set the record and payment dates.

Two principal investments accounted the lion's share of Anscor's net income and asset base: ICTSI and Phelps Dodge Philippines Energy Products Corp., which manufactures wire and cable products.

Anscor also has interests in tourism, aviation, business process outsourcing, call center, nurse deployment, broadband services and real estate.

Anscor owns Seven Seas Resorts & Leisure Inc., which runs the Amanpulo Resort, recognized annually since its opening in 1994 as one of the best beach resorts in the world.

It also has investments in E-Telecare International, the call center company spun off from SPI Technologies in 2003; International Quality Manpower Services Inc. (IQMAN), a venture engaged in deployment of registered nurses to the United States; and in Multi-media Telephony Inc. (MTI), a provider of a full range of voice, short-messaging and high-speed data services.

Its subsidiary, Anscor Land, oversees the group's real estate assets such as properties in Cebu and Puerto Princesa as well an investment in the Enterprise Center on Ayala Avenue. Anscor also owns A. Soriano Air Corp., the operator of hangars used by Seven Seas Resorts and Ten Knots Group (El Nido Resorts).

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 4, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6	6.8	6	6.6	338,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35.5	36.5	35.5	36.5	437,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	62.5	65	62.5	64.5	4,540,800
China Banking Corp.	800	830	800	830	6,080
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.45	13,160,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	73.5	73.5	72	72	192,900
International Exch. Bank	38	39	38	38.5	260,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	40.5	39	40.5	2,491,300
Philippine National Bank	34	35	34	35	72,900
Phil. Savings Bank	38.5	40	38.5	40	16,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	16.5	17	16.5	17	444,300
Security Bank Corp.	54	54.5	54	54.5	115,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	41.5	41.5	40.5	41.5	30,800
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30	30	30	30	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3200	3350	3200	3350	410
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	720,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2140	2140	2140	2140	120
Ivantage Corp.	1.34	1.44	1.34	1.36	15,543,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44.5	44.5	44.5	44.5	341,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45	45	44	44	593,500
Manila Electric Co. A	13	13	13	13	42,700
Manila Electric Co. B	19	19	19	19	381,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.4	7.6	7.2	7.3	7,914,000
Petron Corp.	4.35	4.45	4.35	4.4	1,950,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1	1	1	500,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.4	22,000
CADP Group Corp.	3.15	3.15	3	3.1	32,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3	3	3	3	20,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23.25	23	23	175,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	169,500
Pancake House Inc.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	10,000
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.82	0.74	0.82	1,560,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.45	3.45	3.3	3.3	1,327,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.185	0.22	0.185	0.22	240,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63.5	64	63.5	64	115,000
San Miguel Corp. B	81	82	81	82	131,700
Universal Robina Corp.	23.5	23.75	23.5	23.5	5,823,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	50,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.34	0.38	0.34	0.37	29,260,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.7	1.82	1.7	1.8	15,989,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.2	1.34	1.2	1.34	430,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	294,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.02	1.22	1.02	1.2	440,000
CHEMICALS					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	20,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.11	0.0975	0.1	31,400,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	700,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	3,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.57	0.6	0.54	0.54	1,240,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	117,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	382.5	402.5	382.5	402.5	436,990
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.9	6	5.9	6	342,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.028	0.025	0.027	87,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.9	3.95	2.9	3.85	14,157,000
APC Group Inc.	0.225	0.24	0.225	0.24	8,500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.009	0.009	0.0085	0.009	606,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.04	1.06	5,898,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	14,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	110,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.3	26,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.98	3,030,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.8	7,123,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	40,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.55	3.7	3.55	3.6	1,839,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.58	1.66	1.58	1.64	555,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.9	7.5	7.6	2,207,000
Medco Holdings	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.235	300,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	190,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	5,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.22	8,710,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.56	0.6	0.56	0.6	580,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.155	0.165	0.155	0.16	25,180,000
SM Investments Corp.	230	230	227	230	65,260
South China Resources Inc.	0.9	0.95	0.9	0.95	90,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.79	0.79	490,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0675	0.0725	0.065	0.07	29,200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.125	3,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13	13.5	13	13.25	17,517,500
Belle Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	6,922,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.92	1	0.92	1	1,340,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,750,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.24	2.24	2.22	2.22	913,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.78	246,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	10,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1	1.2	1	1.2	220,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.22	5,250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.67	0.69	0.67	0.68	27,980,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	10,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.03	6,100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.69	0.66	0.69	550,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.52	6,292,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.008	0.0065	0.0075	145,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0075	0.0065	0.007	69,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.3	0.3	0.27	0.27	910,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.57	0.59	0.57	0.58	1,880,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.56	1.6	1.54	1.6	78,705,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	18,340,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.29	0.3	4,850,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	830,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11	11.25	10.75	10.75	1,106,200
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.36	0.36	0.33	0.33	14,820,000
SM Development Corp.	1.7	1.78	1.7	1.76	736,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.2	17,720,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.12	130,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14	13.75	13.75	33,400
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	2,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.14	1.16	1.12	1.14	5,828,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	960	970	950	965	80,950
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.1	4,975,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2060	2065	2060	2060	202,100
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	5,690,000
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	56,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.046	0.044	0.046	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	13,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.12	179,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.027	0.027	321,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	136,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	12.25	13.5	11.75	13	507,543,400
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.76	778,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.4	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.56	0.59	0.55	0.59	2,870,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.3	3.35	3.3	3.3	326,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.14	2.18	2.06	2.16	2,387,000
Paxys Inc.	10.5	11	10.5	10.75	1,276,100
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	3	3	2.85	2.85	3,160,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	719,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	309,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev'l	8.2	8.3	8	8	3,506,000
Benguet Corp. A	13.5	13.5	13	13	53,800
Benguet Corp. B	30	30	30	30	600
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	13,520,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	8,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	138,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	44,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	1,107,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4,076,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4,964,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	30	28.5	29	358,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.44	0.47	0.44	0.47	4,770,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.59	0.64	0.59	0.64	5,510,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	3,400,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	155,600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	76,500,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.2	1.42	1.2	1.42	18,158,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.4	9,118,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.25	11.75	10.25	11.75	3,197,500
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	200
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14	14.25	14	14.25	110,000

CURRENCIES

May 4, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.791954	1.000000	51.3960
Japan	Yen	0.006968	0.008798	0.4522
United Kingdom	Pound	1.459175	1.842500	94.6971
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102153	0.128989	6.6295
Switzerland	Franc	0.640377	0.808604	41.5590
Canada	Dollar	0.714825	0.902609	46.3905
Singapore	Dollar	0.503147	0.635324	32.6531
Australia	Dollar	0.610510	0.770891	39.6207
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.100785	2.652661	136.3362
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211165	0.266638	13.7041
Brunei	Dollar	0.501554	0.633312	32.5497
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000090	0.000114	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.021023	0.026546	1.3644
UAE	Dirham	0.215644	0.272294	13.9948
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.262700	64.8977
Argentina	Peso	0.260340	0.328731	16.8955
Brazil	Real	0.382587	0.483092	24.8290
Denmark	Kroner	0.134090	0.169316	8.7022
India	Rupee	0.017673	0.022316	1.1470
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.219499	0.277162	14.2450
Mexico	New Peso	0.072199	0.091166	4.6856
New Zealand	Dollar	0.508281	0.641807	32.9863
Norway	Kroner	0.128898	0.162760	8.3652
South Africa	Rand	0.130847	0.165221	8.4917
Korea	Won	0.000848	0.001071	0.0550
Sweden	Kroner	0.107426	0.135647	6.9717
Syria	Pound	0.015256	0.019264	0.9901
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025050	0.031631	1.6257

PLDT named 'best emerging market carrier'

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST telecommunications group was recently named the "best emerging market carrier" by one of Asia's leading regional publishing groups.

Telecom Asia conferred the award on Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. for the third straight year, the company said.

The award was given during the recent 2006 Telecom Asia Awards in Phuket, Thailand, where 10 carriers from around the region were also presented with their trophies.

PLDT won in the emerging market category based on its financial performance, market leadership, innovation and corporate governance.

PLDT/B6

PRULINK — **PRU LIFE U.K.**

Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week May 2, 2006	Last Week Apr. 25, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.47441	1.47724
Managed Fund - Peso	1.61041	1.60196
Growth Fund - Peso	1.24968.	1.21669
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2509	1.2517

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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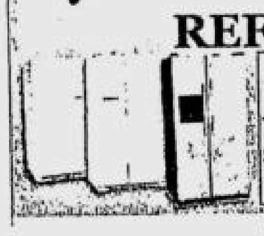

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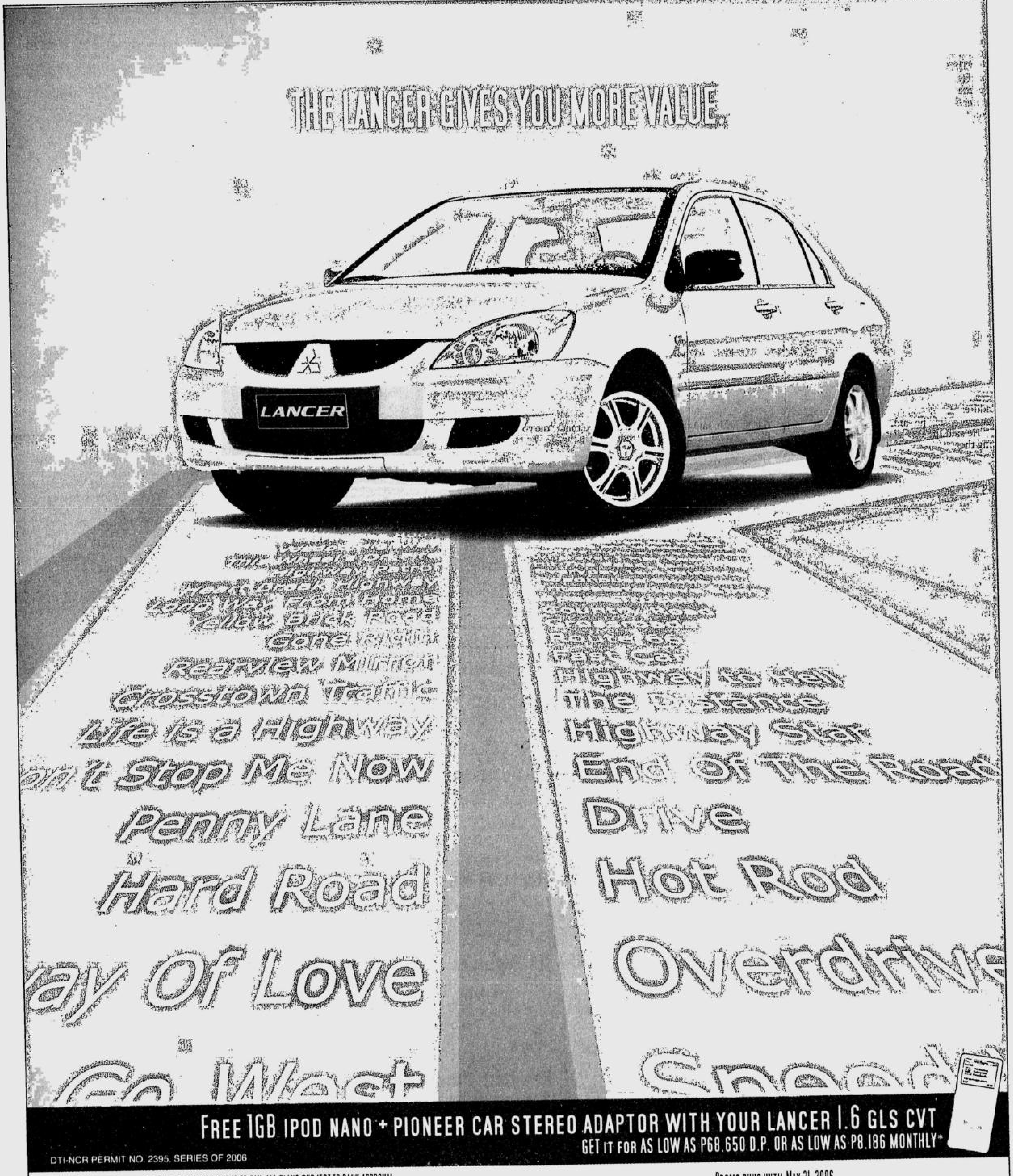

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3 WARRANTY

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Neda sees RP economy growing by 5.5% in Q1

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY, AS MEASURED by the gross domestic product, is expected to have grown by more than 5.5 percent in the first quarter of the year due to improved performance of the agriculture sector, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

The forecast for the first quarter of this year is better than the 4.6 percent posted in the same period last year.

"We have likely attained that growth level because of contributions by the agriculture sector," Neri said in a telephone interview.

The country's chief economist noted that the agriculture sector, which accounts for about a fifth of the country's economic output, grew 4.8 percent in the first three months of this year. This was a turnaround from the 0.1-percent contraction recorded in the first quarter of 2005.

Officials from the Department of Agriculture earlier attributed the stronger-than-expected performance of the agriculture sector to the growth in the production of rice and corn. The government projected earlier that the agriculture sector was only likely to grow 4 percent in the first quarter.

The government has also said that the El Niño weather problem, which pulled down farm output last year, will no longer be a factor this year.

Neri said the government could not yet give figures on the projected growth of the industry and services sectors, but said that these sectors were also seen to have posted decent growth figures.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), the interagency body tasked with setting the government's economic policies and targets, has revised its GDP growth target for this year from a range of 5.7 to 6.3 percent, to only 5.5 to 6.2 percent.

The reduction in the GDP growth target came with the downward adjustment in the exports growth target for the year because of the strengthening of the peso, which has adversely affected profitability of exporters.

The export sector was originally seen to grow 10 percent this year, but the target was slashed to 8 percent.

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Gov't said to lose ₱58B in property tax leaks

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT LOST P58.6 BILLION in potential revenues from 1993 to 2004 due to delinquency of taxpayers and inefficiency in the collection of real property tax, a study by the National Tax Research Center showed.

In 2004 alone, the study showed, the deficit-ridden government registered P9.9 billion in real property tax losses.

The NTRC said that on a national level, the real property tax leaks for the 12-year period reflected a collection efficiency of only 58 percent. This means that, out of the real property tax collectibles, the government had only collected 42 percent.

Collection efficiency of provinces was also recorded at 58 percent, while that for cities stood at 57 percent. Municipalities registered a collection efficiency of 56 percent.

Real property tax is imposed by local governments on land, building, machinery and property improvements at a rate of 1 percent for those situated outside Metro Manila and 2 percent for those located within.

The real property tax was imposed under the Local Government Code, Republic Act No. 7160, as one way to increase the revenue sources of local governments and lessen their dependence on the internal revenue allotment (IRA) provided by the national government.

"These expectations, however, have not been fully attained as indicated by the increasing RPT (real property tax) gap due to the perennially low collection efforts of LGUs on account of the multifarious problems afflicting the administration and collection of RPT," the NTRC said.

The NTRC, an office under the Department of Finance, said in its study that local government units have not sufficiently maximized their revenue-raising potentials and are still heavily dependent on the IRA. NTRC figures showed that, by average, 66 percent of revenues of LGUs are composed of the IRA.

"To reverse this situation, LGUs would have to step up their tax collection effort," the NTRC said.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.		Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2006-046(2)	1,000 bdls.	Jacket for Savings Passbook with Logo, 5-5/8" x 4-1/8"	P 214,500.00	LBP Funds
	9,000 bdls.	Jacket for Savings Signature, Card 5" x 7-1/2"	1,845,000.00	
	1,000 pcs.	Checkbook Jacket, 8-6/8" x 7"	13,500.00	
	3,000 bdls.	Plastic Jacket for ATM Card (Green)	855,000.00	
2006-045	1,200 units	Personal Computer	P 54,000,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements is scheduled on **May 31, 2006** at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 for ITB No. 2006-046 (2) and P6,000.00 for ITB No. 2006-045.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **May 18, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - May 5 & 12, 2006)

MANILA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, INC.
HARVARD ROAD, FORBES PARK
MAKATI CITY

May 5, 2006

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

TO ALL MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

The Bidding Committee of Manila Golf and Country Club, Inc., hereby announces the auction sale of the following described property:

(a) two (2) individual proprietary membership certificates.
(b) two (2) corporate proprietary membership certificates.

Any interested party may submit his/its written bid beginning today until 4:00 pm, May 12, 2006 to the Office of the Club's General Manager.

The bid shall be subject to the following conditions:

(a) Minimum bid of P11,600,000.00 for individual proprietary membership certificate.
(b) Minimum bid of P12,250,000.00 for corporate proprietary membership certificate
(c) Bids shall be accompanied by manager's check equivalent to 20% of the bid price payable to the Manila Golf and Country Club, Inc. and the balance within three (3) days from notice of bid acceptance.
(d) Exemption from the transfer fee of P300,000.00
(e) Certificate will be issued immediately upon receipt of full payment and documentary stamp taxes.

(Sgd.) **CESAR CRUZ**
Chairman, Bidding Committee

(PDI–May 5, 2006)

Globe Telecom subscribers up sharply in Q1

By Daxim L. Lucas

LISTED WIRELESS FIRM GLOBE TELECOM Inc. has significantly raised its subscriber base in the first quarter of this year as its efforts to retain good quality clients—and cut expensive ones—begins to bear fruit.

At the end of the first quarter of 2006, Globe had 13.2 million subscribers for its mobile phone service. This represents a net addition of 793,000 subscribers over the 12.4 million users it reported at the end of 2005.

The disclosure was made by Singapore Telecommunication Ltd. to regulators yesterday. Singtel is a major shareholder of Globe behind the Ayala group.

Globe president and CEO Gerardo C. Ablaza expressed satisfaction over the increase in his firm's client base, especially after rival Smart Communications Inc. trounced Globe for market dominance last year.

Going forward, Globe is counting heavily on the success of its recently launched third-generation (3G) network to offset the widely anticipated plateau in the demand for wireless service which has become increasingly saturated in recent years.

The other day, the company said it will invest $100 million over the next two years for the first phase of its 3G network rollout plan.

There are now an estimated 40 million mobile phone users in the country, the majority of which is held by Smart and its sister firm Pilipino Telephone Corp., followed by Globe, and then by smaller players like Sun Cellular of the Gokongwei family.

News of the hefty increase in Globe's subscriber base pushed its stock price higher on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Globe's shares ended the trading session at P965 apiece from the previous day's close of P960, representing a 0.5-percent appreciation.

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MEGA MANILA PROPERTIES

BULACAN
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Lot Area: 720 sqm.
Bo. Camias, San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price: 102,750.00

LOT 2 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
L18, B17 (St. James St), Tugatog, Malanday, Valenzuela
Minimum Bid Price: 554,400.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 392 sqm.
Barrio San Jose, Baliwag
Minimum Bid Price: 905,800.00

LOT 4 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,013 sqm.
Lots 5605-A & 5606-C, Bagna Malolos
Minimum Bid Price: 3,241,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 966 sqm.
Malinta, Valenzuela
Minimum Bid Price: 15 000 000.00

CALOOCAN
LOT 6 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 60 sqm.
413 Damayan St., Maypajo
Minimum Bid Price: 651,000.00

QUEZON CITY
LOT 7 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 457 sqm.
Florentina St., Bgy Gulod Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: 287,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,438 sqm.
Florentina St., Bgy Gulod Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: 903 000.00

LAGUNA
LOTS 9 & 10 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 + 813 sqm.
Biñan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,218.000.00

MANILA
LOT 11 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 357 sqm.
Lara/Valderama, San Nicolas District, Manila
Minimum Bid Price: 2.879 000.00

PARANAQUE
LOT 12 - LOT &
Lot Area
WITHDRAWN
Streets
Subd

RIZAL
LOT 13 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,803 sqm.
Bo. San Isidro, Rodriguez (Montalban)
Minimum Bid Price: 117,600.00

LOT 14 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,575 sqm.
Bo. San Jose, Rodriguez (Montalban)
Minimum Bid Price: 110,600.00

LOT 15 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,147 sqm.
Bo. Pantay, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price: 240,800.00

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BATAAN
LOT 16 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 2,926 sqm.
Block 12 Lots 18-20, & Block 113 Lots 1-6, Apollo Subd., Brgy Kaparangan, Orani
Minimum Bid Price: 2,048,200.00

LOT 17 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 25,753 sqm.
St. Joseph Homes Subdivision, Bo. Mulawin, Orani
Minimum Bid Price: 18,027,100.00

BENGUET
LOT 18 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 776 sqm.
Site 2, Alta Verde Subdivision, Bgy Insan, Tuba
Minimum Bid Price: 583,500.00

LOT 19 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 771 sqm.
Site 1, Alta Verde Subdivision, Bgy. Insan, Tuba
Minimum Bid Price: 870 000.00

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LOT 20 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 8,000 sqm.
Bigy Pongol Gonzaga Cagayan
Minimum Bid Price: 56 000.00

NUEVA ECIJA
LOT 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 106,760 sqm.
Barrio Burgos, Lupao Nueva Ecija
Minimum Bid Price: 329,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,345 sqm.
Bgy. Rio Chico, Gen. Tinio
Minimum Bid Price: 15,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,129 sqm.
Site 1, Bo. San Agustin, San Jose City
Minimum Bid Price: 44,100.00

LOT 24 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,129 sqm.
Site 2, Bo. San Agustin, San Jose City
Minimum Bid Price: 44,100.00

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 5,000 sqm.
Bgy. Malasin, San Jose City
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Lot Area: 15,212 sqm.
Bgy. Palestina, San Jose City
Minimum Bid Price: 228,000.00

LOT 27 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 20,509 sqm.
Bgy. Bangad, Cabanatuan City
Minimum Bid Price: 287,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 64,085 sqm.
Bgy. Gen. Luna, Carangian
Minimum Bid Price: 769,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 33,889 sqm.
Bgy. Puncan, Carangian
Minimum Bid Price: 711,900.00

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Lot Area: 6,903 sqm.
Bo. Santiago, Cabanatuan City
Minimum Bid Price: 966,000.00

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LOT 31 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 10,219 sqm.
Bgy. District 1, Cauayan
Minimum Bid Price: 250,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 10,108 sqm.
Bgy. San Luis, Cauayan
Minimum Bid Price: 250,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 67,339 sqm.
Poblacion Centro, San Pablo
Minimum Bid Price: 3.031,000.00

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Lot Area: 10,364 sqm.
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near Banawa Elementary School Barrio Banawa
Minimum Bid Price: 3,601,500.00

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Beside White Hills Subdivision Banawa
Minimum Bid Price: 2,100,000.00

LOT 37 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 4,315 sqm.
Barangay Tungkop, Minglanilla
Minimum Bid Price: 694,400.00

LOT 38 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 10,677 sqm.
Barangay Poblacion Ward III, Minglanilla
Minimum Bid Price: 1,050,700.00

LOT 39 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 324 sqm.
Tupas/Tres de Abril/Pahina, San Nicolas, Cebu City
Minimum Bid Price: 5,508,000.00

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LOT 40 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,153 sqm.
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Honorio Lopez Boulevard, Tondo
(COMMERCIAL LOT)
Bid Price: BEST OFFER

RIZAL
LOT 47 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 28,006 sqm.
Hillside Homes Subd. Bgy. Concepcion, Baras
(COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL)
Bid Price: BEST OFFER

BATANGAS
LOT 48 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 747 sqm.
C.M. Recto cor. Goliman Streets Lipa City *(COMMERCIAL LOT)*
Bid Price: BEST OFFER

TARLAC
LOT 49 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,667 sqm.
McArthur Highway, Tarlac
(COMMERCIAL LOT)
Bid Price: BEST OFFER

CAMARINES SUR
LOT 50 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 6,627 sqm.
Daet-Sipocot Road, Bgy. Inigig Sipocot *(COMMERCIAL LOT)*
Bid Price: BEST OFFER

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LOT 51 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 95,537 sqm.
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Bid Price: BEST OFFER

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*Interested applicants are invited to submit their resumés to **HRSolutions Worldwide Inc.** at the 28F, Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City on May 5-6, 2006 from 10am to 6pm.*

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **CROSS-LINK ELECTRIC CORPORATION** with business address at 101 Mezzanine C, Excelsior Condominium, 161 Roxas Blvd. Tambo, Parañaque City has amended the company name to **CROSS-LINK ELECTRIC and CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION.**

(PDI - May 5, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

SEC-CFD ORDER No. 049
Series of 2005

IN THE MATTER OF THE
PRUDENTIALIFE FIXED INCOME FUND, INC.
–Registrant–

Registration of Securities under the Securities Regulation Code

x-------------------x

ORDER

Upon consideration of the Registration Statement and other papers and documents attached thereto which were filed for and on behalf of **PRUDENTIALIFE FIXED INCOME FUND, INC.** the Commission in its meeting of April 6, 2006, resolved to render effective the same for the registration of the company's Three Hundred Million (300,000,000) common shares with a par value of P1.00 each, representing its latest increase in its authorized capital stock.

A Certificate of Permit to Offer Securities for Sale authorizing the sale of said securities is issued with this Order.

Let a copy of this **ORDER** be published at the expense of the corporation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines within ten (10) days from date of this **ORDER**. The subject company is hereby directed to furnish the Commission with a copy of the affidavit of publication of this ORDER.

SO ORDERED

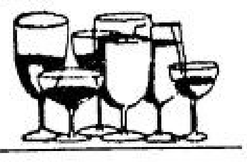
April 12, 2006, EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

(Sgd.) **JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN**
Director

(PDI–May 5 & 12, 2006)

Anscor's P6-B pepper-upper

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

RECYCLED BACHELOR ANDRES Soriano III has obtained a P5.9-billion windfall for A. Soriano Corp. from the sale of the 23-percent Anscor stake in International Container Terminal Services Inc.

ICSTI closed at P13/share yesterday, much higher than the P11.75/share that Anscor said ICTSI chair/CEO Enrique Razon Jr. was paying for the Anscor divestment out of ICTSI.

Razon was quick to deny that funding for his personal purchase would come from the rumored sale of iBank, where his family's Razon Enterprises has a listed 15.68-percent stake.

At yesterday's close, the Razon block in iBank has a market value of P1.92 billion, P4 billion short of the Anscor purchase price.

According to Anscor, Razon has a month to raise the cash.

In the meantime, Soriano, who now spends most of his time in New York in the company of, if the grapevine is to be believed, a lovely American socialite, immediately felt magnanimous and declared a P1.25/share cash dividend for all Anscor shareholders.

The cash dividend, most of which will end up in the pockets of the Sorianos and their minority partner, taipan John Gokongwei, effectively ate up P3.125 billion of the P5.9-billion sale proceeds.

Still, the remaining P2.78 billion would "give the company the ability to consider other investment opportunities," Anscor said.

News of the sale and the healthy dividend perked up the hardly traded Anscor, closing 35 percent, a good P1, higher at P3.85/share.

With ICTSI gone, Anscor is left with Phelps Dodge, the country's biggest manufacturer of wires and cables, as major investment.

It has two promising mining ventures, ASC and Lepanto, as well as a start-up cellular telephony company, Multi-Media Telephony, that provides any Metro Manila subscriber free and unlimited calls to any Metro Manila PLDT landline using a CDMA-band wireless phone set.

DeCAPitated, too

IT looks like even sister company CAPHealth has been infected by the funding malaise that has befallen its big sister, the pre-need College Assurance Plan.

A Makati company found to its dismay that its 1991-era coverage for its employees with CAP health maintenance organization has been cut off by the Asian Hospital.

Reason? CAPHealth could no longer reimburse Asian and other accredited hospitals, allegedly after P150 million in CAPHealth's medical trust fund was quietly withdrawn earlier this year.

"If you ever go to Southwoods to play golf and see Mr.______ Sr. and Mr. ______ Jr., please whack their heads with the golf club on our behalf," wrote an irate executive of the Makati company.

Hit RP gov't, get overseas funding

IT used to be that overseas funding for local activism was quietly solicited, but publicly disavowed.

Not anymore.

The interlinked websites/blogs of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, Newsbreak, Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, and National Union of Journalists of the Philippines not only proudly declare their foreign government and multilateral funding, each one even outchronicles each other about the foreign trips and awards their various groups have obtained in pursuit of their objectives.

Despite the pullout of the Philippine office of the Ford Foundation, one of the biggest foreign funders for local activists, there is still apparently substantial foreign funding still sloshing around that one business outfit has even scheduled a seminar next week, at P1,500 fee/head, on how to raise tax-free funding from overseas donors.

Heard through the grapevine

PAL and Cebu Pacific are readying another round of fuel surcharges in view of the still levitating cost of crude oil.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Gov't plans to retire $4B worth of bonds

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO retire up to $4 billion worth of sovereign foreign currency denominated bonds or ROPs, mostly those with maturities of less than five years, to boost trading liquidity of longer term debt paper.

The ROPs would be replaced with new global bonds with long-term maturities through various bond exchanges to allow the government to take advantage of cheaper foreign borrowings, government sources said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' policy-making Monetary Board has already given the national government the go-ahead to issue up to $4 billion in new global bonds to replace the bonds to be bought back.

"It ($4 billion) won't necessarily be done in one tranche," one source said.

Another source said the BSP's approval meant that the government would have the flexibility to redeem expensive bonds whenever the opportunity arose.

This means the government will have enough new bonds to issue any time there is a good chance to pre-terminate expensive foreign debts.

Similar to a strategy adopted for domestic bonds, a source said the government would like to boost the liquidity for certain benchmark securities, particularly those with a maturity of more than five years.

The source said the best time to return to the global bond market was when the Philippines would have completed its partial Brady bond buyback this June. The government will retire up to $411 million or 53 percent of its remaining Brady bonds by June.

If given the opportunity, the government wants to retire in full the $774 million in outstanding Brady bonds—a bitter reminder of the country's debt crisis years—using proceeds from domestic borrowings.

The Brady bonds have become more expensive compared to newer global bond floats as interest rate spreads narrowed over the years following improvements in the government's fiscal position.

The Philippines issued a total of $4.25 billion worth of Brady bonds between 1990 and 1992 in a debt restructuring program, but some had been retired in previous bond exchange programs.

The Brady bonds were named after Nicholas Brady, the Treasury chief of the United States during the term of President Ronald Reagan, who proposed the issuance of these bonds to help heavily indebted countries like the Philippines restructure their commercial bank debt starting in the 1980s.

Napocor posted ₱14B in savings in 2005

By Abigail L. Ho

STRINGENT COST-CUTTING MEASURES, including the use of less oil-based power plants, enabled the state-run National Power Corp. to generate as much as P14 billion in savings last year.

According to Napocor documents, the economic load dispatching of the state firm's power plants contributed the biggest chunk to last year's savings at P9.88 billion.

Economic load dispatching entailed relying more on plants that ran on fuels such as hydro, geothermal and coal as electricity produced by these plants cost less than that produced by facilities using oil.

This meant that the more cost-efficient plants were given priority dispatch and the use of oil-based facilities was minimized.

In 2004, savings from economic load dispatching was placed at only P3.4 billion.

The state firm also saved another P3.83 billion by prioritizing its capital expenditure, or focusing on requirements that had been certified "urgent" and deemed crucial to the operating capability and efficiency of its plants.

Savings from this cost-reduction measure last year was slightly higher than the P3.79 billion posted in 2004.

Napocor also cut its expenses by another P199.22 million by keeping operating expenses in check through strict limitations on foreign travels and training, and by an additional P61 million by using an electronic bidding system for its fuel and and other requirements.

It also saved another P44.29 million through the optimal use of cheaper local coal by blending this with imported coal.

According to Napocor, its 2005 savings have yet to reflect those generated from reduced contractual obligations to some of its independent power producers, as well as the increased operational efficiency of its power plants.

In 2004, these two measures yielded savings of P8.06 billion and P583 million, respectively, Napocor said.

Napocor last year posted an audited net income of around P16 million, its first profit in almost a decade.

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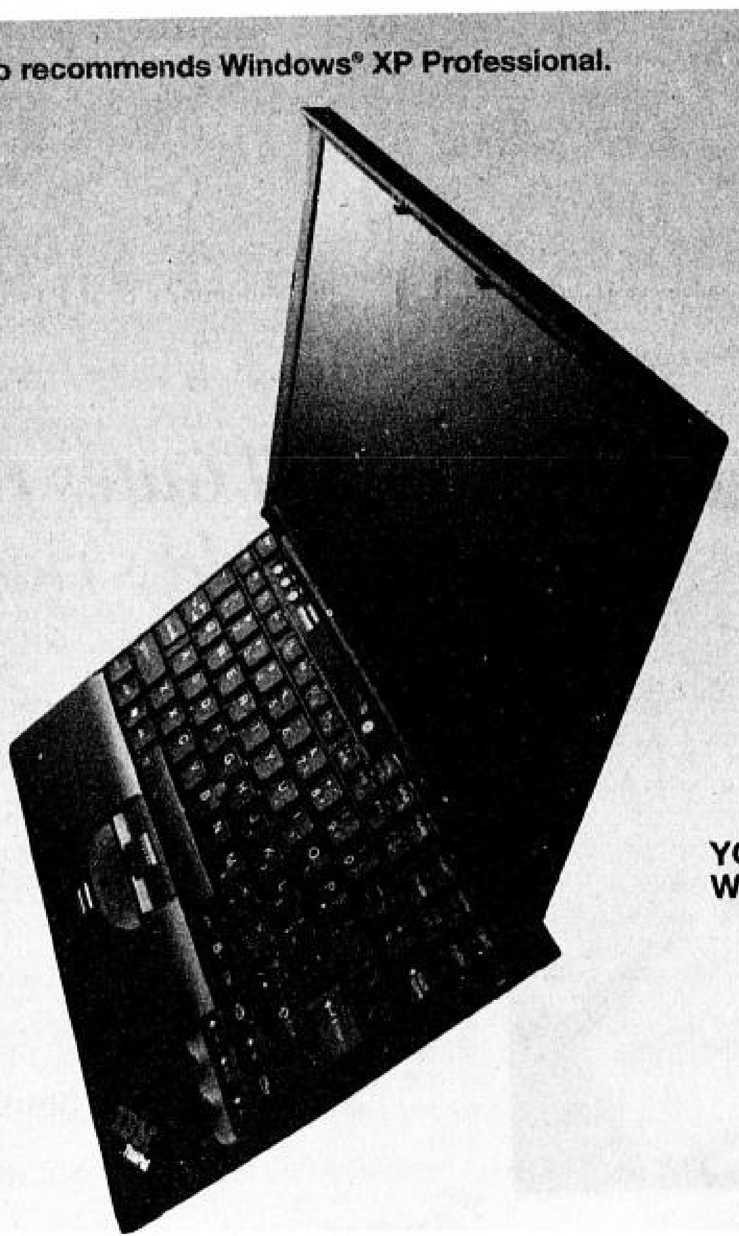

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US says world oil prices to stay high through '07

WASHINGTON—WORLD OIL PRICES will stay high through 2007 because of strong petroleum demand, limited surplus oil production and refining capacity and concerns about supply disruptions due to geopolitical risks in countries like Iran, the United States government's top energy forecasting agency said on Wednesday.

The Energy Information Administration said none of these "forces that contribute to current high crude oil prices will ease significantly in the near future, so our best forecast is that crude oil prices will remain elevated through 2007."

The Energy Department's analytical arm also said in its weekly review of the oil market that "strong growth in the world economy, and particularly in China and the United States, has fueled the need for more oil, thus putting upward pressure on prices."

The agency pointed out that global oil demand grew just under 1 million barrels per day (bpd) annually between 1991 and 2002, but then increased 1.5 million bpd in 2003, 2.6 million bpd in 2004 and 1.1 million bpd last year.

This year, it is forecast to rise 1.6 million bpd.

Oil prices in the United States have jumped above $70 a barrel also due to fear among traders that the West's dispute with Iran over its restarted nuclear program could disrupt that country's oil exports, while a large part of Nigeria's oil exports remains halted because of militant violence.

"The situation in Nigeria may continue for many months, (and) market concerns about a possible supply disruption from Iran are likely to remain through at least this year, if not into next year," the EIA said.

Low global surplus oil production capacity makes that fear worse and helps push up prices. The agency said unused output capacity around the world fell from 5.6 million bpd in 2002 to around 1 million bpd today.

"While some productive capacity has been brought online, it has been insufficient, relative to demand growth," the EIA said. "As a result, surplus capacity is extremely limited, dramatically reducing the ability to respond to any sudden surges in demand or disruptions in supply."

The ability of refineries to turn that crude into petroleum products has also become tighter, as refineries have ramped up production and operated for longer periods.

This has "reduced the system's flexibility to respond to any disruption in refinery production, either from hurricanes or other events," the EIA said.

The agency said tight US gasoline supplies could "pull up" crude oil prices, because limited surplus refining capacity makes each gallon of gasoline worth more, "increasing the value of the crude oil used to produce the refined products." *Reuters*

ALL THAT GAS
Dave Gerstner of New York fills his gas tank, spending $41.50 for 12.6 gallons, in Bloomfield, NY. World oil prices will likely stay high through 2007 because of strong demand, according to a US energy forecasting agency. AP

Asia shares dragged down by Wall Street

SINGAPORE—ASIAN SHARES YESTERDAY mostly fell, dragged lower by US stocks which weakened after strong data raised interest rate concerns.

Only India beat the trend by hitting a new peak for the fourth straight session.

Oil prices dipped to $72 a barrel, deepening a 3 percent fall a day earlier. Gold paused after a rally that lifted prices to a 25-year high. The dollar was stuck in a range after failing to gain support from the US data.

In Europe, a fresh wave of corporate earnings was expected to help shares rebound, but interest rate worries ahead of European Central Bank and the Bank of England meetings might cap volumes.

Spread betters in London were calling the FTSE 100, CAC 40, and DAX indexes between 2 and 27 points higher.

In Asia, Australian shares fell more than 1.4 percent, but South Korean stocks ended slightly higher on lower oil prices and a better-than-expected rise in Hyundai Motor Co.'s operating profit though gains were capped by a stronger won currency and US interest rate worries.

"It looks like the Fed could continue to raise interest rates," said Kim Joon-kie, an analyst at SK Securities. "If that happens, it would come amid a general rise in interest rates worldwide."

The benchmark Korea Composite Stock Price Index (KOSPI) gained 0.38 percent ahead of a market holiday on Friday.

In Singapore, the Strait Times index fell about 0.3 percent, but shares of Singapore Telecommunications—Southeast Asia's largest phone company—rose nearly 1.5 percent after it said it would return $2.6 billion to investors.

Hong Kong shares were 0.15 percent lower as investors booked profits after the market touched 5-1/2-year high on Wednesday. Taiwan stocks ended up 1.42 percent at a 5-1/2-year closing high, led by asset-rich financial stocks.

Shares in Telecom Corp. of New Zealand fell nearly 9 percent after the government said on Wednesday it must open its local networks to competitors to allow other companies to offer fast Internet services.

The fall knocked more than 2.5 percent off New Zealand's benchmark NZX-50 stock index and wiped out about NZ$1 billion off the company's market capitalization.

But there was no stopping Indian shares, which rose to a new peak on robust foreign fund flows and expectations of strong economic growth appeared to outweigh weak global markets and bouts of profit-taking.

Oil prices fell to $72 a barrel, widening a 3-percent decline, after US data showed an unexpected rise in gasoline inventories.

US light sweet crude traded down 10 cents at $72.18 a barrel by 0624 GMT. It slumped more than $2 a day ago after the higher stock levels soothed concerns about gasoline supply.

The dollar stuck in a narrow range after failing to gain any lasting support from firm US data or supportive comments from Japanese officials.

The euro hovered at $1.2630, little changed from New York's $1.2626 close. *Reuters*

Immigration seen as key to offset aging economies

WASHINGTON—FOR RICH COUNTRIES fretting about the economic effects of an aging society and a dwindling native workforces, embracing immigration would appear to be a sensible contribution to maintaining the economy's potential.

Experts say immigration alone will not solve the economic problems of aging. But the risk of suddenly choking off migrant flows may be dangerous given looming demographics.

With United Nations data showing 59 countries worldwide already not producing enough children to avoid population decline, it seems odd why many developed countries, including the United States, are looking to tighten immigration laws.

Plummeting birthrates and falling populations—other things being equal—simply reduce countries' ability to produce and consume more goods and services and eat into growth rates, foreign investment and economic clout over time.

What is more, the drag on national coffers from growing numbers of elderly citizens drawing government benefits, relative to tax-paying workers, is a well-documented headache.

So, with the world's fertility rate as a whole set to fall below replacement levels by 2045, it may even be possible there will be intense competition for migrants in the decades ahead.

"Adding population growth to an economy makes it easier for the economy to grow and immigration is big factor," said David Kelly, senior economic adviser at Putnam Investments. "One of the reasons why Japan and Europe have wallowed in recent years is because they have very little population growth and so their natural economic growth rate is lower than the United States."

"And the young age at which people arrive in a country tends to make immigrants more of a contributor to economic growth than a drag on the welfare system," he said.

The median average age of new immigrants in industrialized countries is 30 years, according to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, and fertility rates among immigrant women are often relatively high.

The impact of immigration on population growth is rising everywhere, with some European countries already entirely reliant on immigration for any rise in population.

Yet, depending on immigration alone to bridge demographic gaps will not be enough, even if a necessary ingredient.

"Increased immigration can limit the adverse impact on living standards and government budgetary positions due to declining and aging populations, but cannot on its own resolve the problem," an OECD study from 2001 said.

The OECD report said most studies show immigration confers small net gains in terms of per capita output to the host country, but this is unevenly distributed and depends a lot on the education levels of the migrants and local populations.

The scale of immigration needed to "solve" the problems of old-age dependency would be staggering. *Reuters*

PLDT . . .

From page B3

The group credited PLDT for the dramatic turnaround of its business over the past three years and the significant growth in its profits and free cash flow.

The company's comprehensive financial disclosures and transparency also contributed to the company's success in the awards.

"It is indeed a great honor for us to win this award for the third straight time, especially since we are competing with the biggest and most admired telcos in the region," PLDT president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno said in a statement.

PLDT also received nominations in other categories. It was nominated for best telecom carrier in Asia while subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. was nominated for best mobile carrier in the region.

"We are especially gratified that this distinction has been conferred on PLDT in a period during which the company has taken big strides in transforming itself into a next-generation carrier," Nazareno added. "Indeed this reflects the ability of Philippine companies to excel despite the challenges in the business environment."

Telecom Asia said in a statement that the awards were the most prestigious honors program in Asian telecommunications and that the award winners were chosen on their combined financial, market and technology strengths based on financial analysis and assessments of an 18-member judging panel.

"These awards are intended to identify and reward outstanding performance in Asian telecommunications," said Robert Ferguson, managing director of Questex Asia, publisher of Telecom Asia.

Shares . . .

From page B1

Volume was unusually heavy with transactions including the sale of holding firm A. Soriano Corp.'s (Anscor) entire 23-percent stake in port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI).

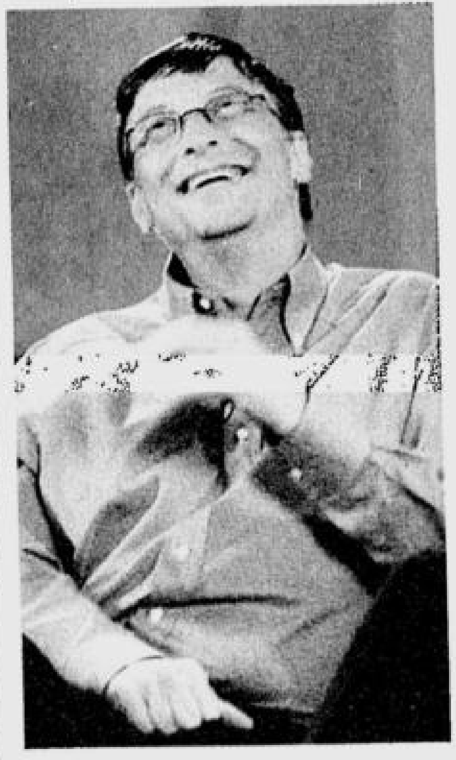
The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 29.47 points to 2,370.29 after trading between 2,339.98 and 2,372.33. This was the best finish since Aug. 4, 1999, when it ended at 2,372.05.

Volume was 4.26 billion shares worth P8.39 billion.

The composite index closed up 29.47 points at 2,370.29. The broader all-shares index advanced 20.29 points to 1,471.75.

Gainers outnumbered losers 81 to 32, with 37 stocks unchanged. *AFP*

Bill Gates rues being world's richest man



GATES

REDMOND, WASHINGTON—Microsoft Corp. Chair Bill Gates on Wednesday said he wished he were not the world's richest man.

"I wish I wasn't ... there is nothing good that comes out of that," said Gates, whose personal fortune has sunk by billions since last week when the software giant disappointed investors by saying new investments would crimp earnings.

The corporate leader who made Microsoft into the world's largest software maker—and who is also one of the biggest philanthropists—is seen as a man who does not like publicity.

He explained that he did not like the attention of being the world's richest.

"You get more visibility as a result of it," he said during an interview conducted by CNBC reporter Donny Deutsch in front of a crowd of people attending a Microsoft advertising event.

The Microsoft co-founder said that the person he learned most from in the world, aside from technology colleagues, was fellow-billionaire and legendary investor Warren Buffett.

"He has this very refreshing, simple way of looking at things, so I put him on top of the list," said Gates, adding that the top lesson from Buffett was the importance of integrity.

Still, Gates joked about his plight being unequaled in wealth. Asked if he surrounded himself with financial peers, he quipped, "No, I sit alone." *Reuters*

Japan, China, Korea back Asia financial integration

HYDERABAD, INDIA—FINANCE MINISTERS from China, Japan and South Korea yesterday called for more financial cooperation among Asian countries and said they would look further into the idea of regional currency units.

In a joint statement, they also called for more voting rights and representation at the International Monetary Fund to reflect their economic power.

"We noted the importance of sharing our long-term vision for financial integration in the region," the statement said. "We agreed on further study of related issues, including the usefulness of regional currency units through the Asean+3 finance ministers' process."

The ministers, who met on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Hyderabad, India, said high oil prices and rising global interest rates could pose a major risk to regional economies.

They will take part later in a meeting with finance chiefs from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean+3).

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Asian nations are making gradual but solid progress in financial cooperation, but a home-grown monetary fund or a European-style common currency is decades away, at best.

"I think it's a pipe dream," said Nick Bibby, a strategist at Barclays Capital in Singapore. "We occasionally see calls for this but it never goes anywhere and I expect the same to happen this time."

Bibby said he questioned the suitability and viability of an Asian version of the euro because of widely varying levels of economic development in the region and a lack of transfer systems from areas doing well to those faring poorly.

During the ADB and Asean meetings, ministers are also likely to discuss imbalances of capital and trade flows around the globe—problems that have put selling pressure on the dollar due to the US trade and current account deficits.

Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki said there were excessive movements in the currency market.

"I will monitor them with strong interest," Tanigaki told a news conference after he met his Chinese and South Korean counterparts.

He told an ADB seminar that an overemphasis on exchange rate realignment to fix global imbalances could fuel speculation. *Reuters*

SOUTH Korean Finance Minister Han duck-soo, left, Finance Minister of Japan Sadakazu Tanigaki, center, and Finance Minister of China Jin Renqing hold hands before the start of the meeting on the second day of the Asian Development Bank meeting in Hyderabad, India. AP

CARMEN MARIÑO PEREZ

Loving Wife & Devoted Mother

December 21, 1921 - May 2, 2006

Carmen (Mameng) lived an interesting and very full life. A former Miss Lux Philippines, international flight attendant, teacher & employee of Philippine Refining Co. (UNILEVER), she enjoyed gardening, traveling, being involved in church activities and spending time with her grandchildren overseas. She was a faithful Christian.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years **Ernesto Arriola Perez**; daughters **Malu**, **Marites** and **Mary Ann**; sons-in-law **Bong Koo Lee** & **Dennis Scullion**; grandchildren **Kevin**, **Kenneth**, **Danielle** & **Justin**; sisters **Mary Giberson** and **Pilar Mariño**; and brother-in-law **Louis Giberson**.

Her body will lie in state inside the Main Sanctuary of Central United Methodist Church beginning May 4, 2006 (address: 594 T.M. Kalaw St. cor. Taft Ave. Tel. 525-7590).

A memorial service co-celebrated with Kamuning First Methodist Church will be held at Central United Methodist Church on Friday May 5, 2006 at 8:00 pm.

Final necrological service will take place on May 6, 2006 at 10:00 am also at Central United Methodist Church.

Cremation services (to be attended by the immediate family) will take place after the necrological service.

Death Notice

RALPH "Ike" REBUSTILLO RAYALA
Died on April 26, 2006

His remains lie in state at the family home in Ilaor Sur, Oas, Albay. Burial will be tomorrow, May 6, 2006 at 2 p.m. after the Mass at Oas North Cemetery.

EVANGELINA NOGRALES MIRASOL
Died on May 2, 2006

Her body lies at Molave Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat. Interment will be May 6 at Manila Memorial Park.

MARIA GENEROSO REYES
Died on April 29, 2006

Her body lies at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Quezon City. Interment will be on May 6, 2006 at La Loma Cemetery, Manila after the 1 p.m. Mass.

The Board of Directors, Officers and Employees of

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

extend their condolences to the family of

JOSE Y. CAMPOS

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 1, 2006

BLAS B. LABAD

of Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental
and Malalag, Davao del Sur

Peacefully joined our Creator last May 3, 2006 at the age of 82.

His wife, **Paciencia Lanzar**; children, **Bong** and **Rose**, **Lucy**, **Edward** and **Gay**, **Paul**, & **Leo**; grandchildren **Kian** and **Derick**; brothers and sisters **Rosa**, **Tita**, **Dodo**, **Loloy** and **Inday**; in-laws, nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence at Purok 7, Upper Bagumbayan, Malalag, Davao Del Sur.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 6, 2006 after the Funeral Mass at the Sta. Theresa de Avila Parish Church in Malalag, Davao del Sur at 10:00 in the morning.

JUANITA B. BAGA

passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 2, 2006 at the age of 97.

Her bereaved children, **Tom** and **Clety**, **Lydia** and **Simeon**, **Nora** and **Herb**, **Lillian** and **Charlito**, **Victor** and **Peggy**, **Noe** and **Jewel**, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Monday, May 8, 2006 at Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

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ERRATUM
In the ad of the Department of Trade and Industry, Board of Investments re. Notice for Registration of **A5TRX CORPORATION** published in this paper on May 4, 2006, the A5TRX was inadvertently printed as ASTRX.
(PDI--May 5, 2006) Our apologies.

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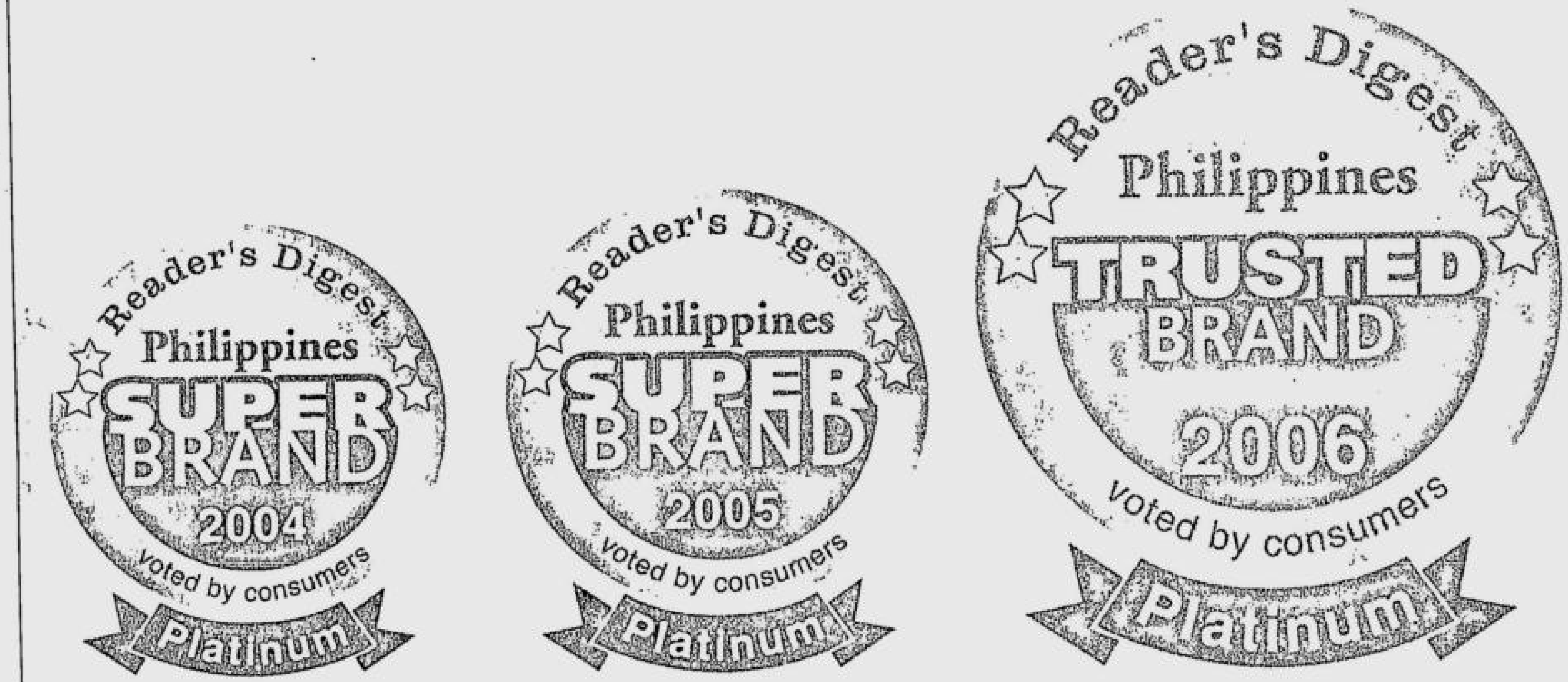
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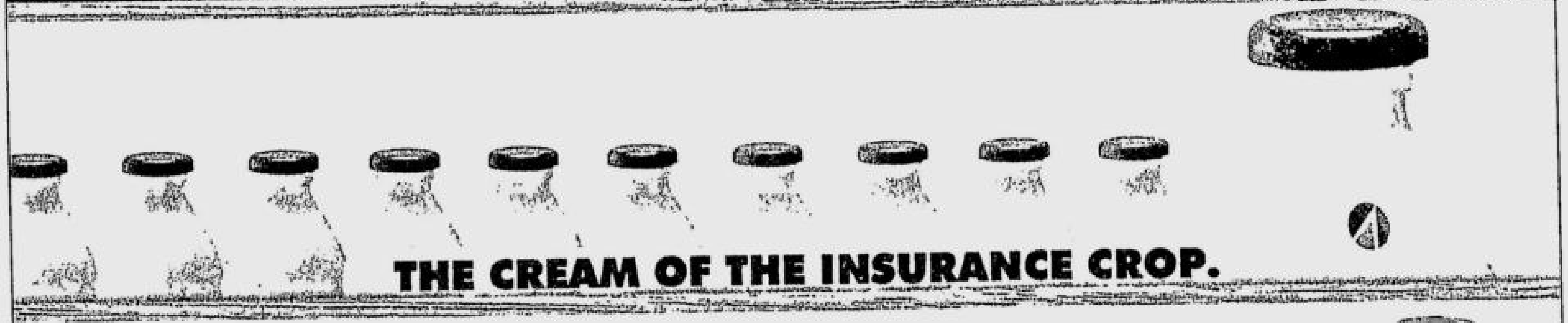
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*Source: BusinessWorld Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines 2005 (based on 2004 performance)

Philamlife is only financial institution in RP to receive Platinum Trusted brand honor; collects record third straight award

Philamlife recently became the country's first and only financial institution to be named a Platinum Trusted Brand by Reader's Digest Asia in its 2006 Trusted Brands Survey. This marks the third time Philamlife is receiving the prestigious Platinum award from the international publication.

Philamlife received the highest score among all the life insurance firms, banks, and investment fund companies chosen by Philippine consumers in the survey, which asked respondents to name their favorite companies across 42 categories and rate these companies according to quality, value, strong image, innovativeness, trustworthiness, and understanding of consumer needs.

Philamlife scored more than double its nearest competitor, earning the company its record third straight Platinum award.

The Platinum Trusted Brand award is seen as rock-solid proof of the unrivalled level of trust Philamlife enjoys among consumers who participated in the Reader's Digest survey, acknowledged as one of the most exhaustive and accurate consumer research projects of this kind today.

Philamlife is the No. 1 life insurance company in the Philippines and is a member company of American International Group Inc. (AIG), the world's leading financial services organization.

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BUSINESS *Friday*

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

UP food vendors adjust to times

By J. Bonaobra, E. Ferrer, C. Malaluan, J. Mirandilla, R. Rosales, C. General, C. Hagos
Contributors

THE CAMPUS AND SURrounding areas of the University of the Philippines Diliman create a small, but self-sufficient community with its colleges and university facilities, residential areas, banks, hospital, mall, shopping centers, pharmacy and numerous food establishments.

What is noticeable these days is the variety of restaurants, canteens and stalls mushrooming in the area indicating a growing population and demand for all types of food.

Many students prefer to eat in the well-established and popular cafeteria inside UP, but many more choose to peck at the much cheaper foods offered by various rolling stores in the campus.

According to "A taste of UP," a 2005 study conducted by students from Communication Research 165 (CR 165) classes in College of Mass Communication, there are 56 food establishments within UP.

The CR 165 had a list of the top 10 most patronized food

UP FOOD/ B2-2

Coping with the oil price hike

Vendors raise prices of basic goods in 'palengke'

By L. Bedonia, V. Puno, J. Velasco, J. Belen and W. Adille
Contributors

LAUNDRYWOMAN TRINIDAD DE LOS SANtos, 52, used to spend just P500 for four days worth of groceries. Today, the money is no longer enough.

"P500 is really not sufficient to buy the goods that we need at home, that's why before I go to the market, I try to double check the things that I have to prioritize," De los Santos says.

Fruit vendor Antonio Silva blames his similar woes on the oil price hikes that have increased the prices of basic goods, including the fruits he is selling.

There was a time when he recorded P3,000 in sales a day. Today, he only gets less than P1,000 because consumers are finding it more difficult to buy his fruits.

"Every one of us is affected by this increase. As vendors, we also have no other choice but to raise the prices of our product a little higher," he says in Filipino. "The oil price hike is the devil behind all our misery."

Most vendors have increased their prices since March when crude oil prices in the world market inched up beyond $74 a barrel, prompting local oil companies to consequently increase their prices at the pump.

In Metro Manila, several vendors of agricultural products have increased their prices by P1 to P2.

Although based on DA's recent monitoring report, only the price of pork has increased its price by P5-10 this week, while prices of other agricultural products remained stable. The same goes for manufac-

COPING/ B2-2

BUSINESS
SOLU IONS

Road Warriors Armed With Next Generation Technology

Unilever Gets PLDT-Enabled

Unilever Philippines is stepping up to the high-technology plate. The giant consumer packaged products conglomerate thinks it's high time to upgrade its sprawling local operations.

"We want to enable our most distant networks with new technology," says Maita Cabinian, Country Head of IT for Unilever. "We serve almost every part of the Philippines...PLDT Shops.work is definitely more cost-efficient for our smaller remote offices."

PLDT Shops.work is a responsive telco innovation that allows business owners to monitor and control remote operations in real-time. Among other things it allows managers to effectively track.inventory movement as well as up-to-date sales figures. It also allows video monitoring of their satellite offices through the use of online webcams.

In addition, Unilever employees that are continuously in the field can now connect to the Internet or their office LAN thanks to the award-winning PLDT WeRoam solution in their laptops. "We have a big distribution network in remote areas where wireless solutions can be deployed fastest. Before, the only other option was radio," Cabinian also said.

"We're broadbanding the whole country," said PLDT President and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno, "the reason (broadband) can be rolled out faster by the PLDT Group, even in remote stations is because of the strength of Smart's 99% cellular site coverage and PLDT's self-healing digital fiber optic network that cuts through the whole archipelago."

After realizing the value of reliable cost effective mobility for their sales people, top management at Unilever decided that it was time to adopt this innovative technology. The Unilever sales force can now connect with their head office anywhere they are in the field, increasing their productivity and efficiency several times over.

"Unilever has empowered its marketing team and sales force with PLDT WeRoam. We are very delighted to have enabled their road warriors with this award-winning solution, beyond fixed or wireless voice and data services already entrusted to the PLDT-Smart Group," said PLDT SVP and Head of the Corporate Business Group Eric R. Alberto.

According to Unilever officials, they had become aware of a number of other multinationals who are realizing the value of PLDT WeRoam. They felt that it was time that they looked into its advantages as well for their own operations.

Howard Belton, Chairman and CEO of Unilever Philippines added that "In our constant effort to improve our customer service, we know we need to partner with other equally innovative companies like PLDT."

Unilever has made the commitment to race into the future and PLDT innovations will be with them every step of the way. Beyond offering them the latest solutions and products, PLDT puts the spirit of innovation in everything else including after-sales and customer support. Clearly, it's innovation in every dimension.

(Front Row) PLDT SVP & Head of Corporate Business Group Eric R. Alberto, PLDT President and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno, Unilever Chairman & CEO Howard Belton and Unilever Country Head of IT Maita Cabinian. (Back Row) SMART Relationship Manager JB Angeles, SMART Consumer & Corporate Sales Manager Dick Perez, PLDT FVP & Corporate Business Operations Officer Cesar Enriquez, PLDT Sales Business Head Katrina Abelarde, PLDT Relationship Manager Ma. Joe-Ann Honrado, Unilever Country IT Infrastructure Manager Mike Nicolas and Unilever BT Project Manager Lito Dela Cruz

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UP food vendors adjust to times

From page B2-1

establishments which are CASAA, followed by Gloria's, Rodic's and University Food Service (at the Vinzon's Hall), Beach House, UP Cooperative Canteen, Chocolate Kiss, Aristocrat, Lutong-Bahay and Albergus.

Canteens and food establishments are the top choices of the UP staff and faculty.

The thesis states that some factors customers consider are the taste of the food, accessibility of the place, quality of customer service and affordability of the food.

Cleanliness and ambience, though important, are rank low in the factors that affect choice.

All food establishments in UP need business permits to operate and undergo safety checks by the Business Concession Office with the help of Food Service Regulation Committee (FSRC), which holds the jurisdiction over these canteens.

But some of these establishments are in danger of being extinct as prices of commodities go up and consumers shifting to the cheaper street food, provided by small food stalls and rolling stores.

"Before, I used to have at least a P1,000 profit a day, but now, earning P500 a day would be deeply appreciated," Mary Beth Catuli, 48, married, owner of Cherry Ann's Store and Snack Haus, says in Filipino.

Cherry Ann's is one of the carinderia stores along Magsaysay Avenue. It is an uncomfortable place when compared with the food establishments in the campus.

"Aside from this godforsaken aura, competition is very tough," Catuli added.

Aling Beth says she would like to lower her prices to attract more customers but cannot because of her other expenses such as rent and food costs.

Stalls and rolling stores, which occupy smaller spaces, pay lower rentals of about P300 a month, compared with canteens.

The number of rolling stores is now higher than the canteens in the university. The customers are mostly students who can only afford the cheaper food.

"The food here is good, it somehow help me fulfill my starving," says Ara Luna, a student.

The university canteens are mostly run by the second generation, aged 22-56 years old. They operate on an 13-hour schedule—from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Poverty was the main reason why food establishments flourished in the university. As the population in the area grew, the need for a source of livelihood increased. The food business became the easiest venture to get into. As students' and teachers' budgets also tightened, demand for cheaper food also prompted the proliferation of many food establishments in the area.

Lorena Dating, a UP CMC student, says that instead of going to the malls and spending money for fare to have an extravagant meal, she prefers to eat her meals in a university canteen.

"It is because of the law of supply and demand," Evelyn Oliquino, a professor in Bicol University who teaches Sociology, said.

The law states that as the demand increases, the supply decreases, and as the supply increases, the demand will decrease.

Squatters have proliferated in the areas around the campus over the past years. Urban areas are often hard hit by poverty, with the incidence of urban poverty increasing by 13 percent to include half of the urban population. The urban poor in UP Diliman can be found specifically in Crus na Ligas—where some of the owners and crew of various canteens in UP live.

About 55 percent of the poor surveyed in the country who were in the labor force worked in an informal sector, generally as vendors, crews, or street hawkers. Other activities included service and repair work, construction, transport services, or petty production which can also be found inside the campus.

Access to finance has been limited to the canteen owners.

"People patronize canteens with established and credible name," Aling Beth adds.

But while competition is tough, many of the food establishments in the campus trudge on. Some move on to become well-established eateries that cater to generations of students.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested **general building** contractors with current Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License to apply for eligibility and to bid and if later found eligible, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title : Proposed Renovation of the Governor's Office – Phase 2
Scope of Work : Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all operations necessary for the proposed Renovation of the **Governors Office – Phase 2** all in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location : 5th Floor, 5-Storey Building, A. Mabini St. cor. P. Ocampo, Manila
Approved Budget : One Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P1,500,000.00)
Source of Funding : BSP Corporate Funds
Contract Duration : Forty Five (45) calendar days
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)
PCAB License : Registration Particulars of at least **"Small B" (Building and Industrial Plant)**
Contractor's Construction Experience : Should have completed within the last five (5) years (2001) to present) at least three (3) projects involving **interior fit-out works or construction / renovation of commercial / corporate offices such as office buildings, banks or financial institutions** involving high end finishes or similar projects one of which costs not less than seven hundred fifty thousand pesos (P750,000.00)
Certification of Satisfactory Performance : Should be able to submit certificates of satisfactory performance from the client of the declared completed similar projects.
For those contractors who have previously done / completed BSP projects, the certificate/s of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank for said project/s must be submitted.
Net Financial Contracting Capacity : At least **One Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P1,500,000.00)** *computed as 10 x (current asset less current liabilities) minus (value of all on-going contractors including awarded yet to be started)*
Or
Credit Line or Cash Deposit Certificate : At least **One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P150,000.00)**
Eligibility Statement Forms
Cost of Forms : Five Hundred Pesos per set (P500.00/set)
Date of Issuance : **April 26 to May 08, 2006 / 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.**
Deadline of Submission : **May 12, 2006 / 10:00 AM**
Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility
Date of Issuance : **May 18, 2006 / 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM**
Bid / Tender documents Issuance : Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00)
Date of Issuance : **May 19 to 22, 2006 / 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**
Pre-Bid Conference
Date and time : **May 26, 2006 / 9:30 AM**
Venue : MR2A, 2nd Floor, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo St., Manila
Submission and Opening of Bids
Deadline of Submission : **June 13, 2006 / 2:00 PM**

For inquiries, plese call **BAC Secretariat – telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143**

The venue for the issuance and submission of accomplished eligibility statements and bid documents is at the BAC Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor – Five Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo St., Manila

The schedule of bid activities from the issuance of **notice of eligibility / ineligibility** up to the deadline of **submission of bids** may be subject to change.

The provisions of **Republic Act No. 9184** and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall govern relative to the bidding and award of contract including its implementation.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor whose bid is evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate / indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – April 25 & May 5, 2006)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Service Contract for the Parcellary Survey, Relocation and Subdivision Survey of the Affected Main/Sub-lots of Kirahon - Maramag 230 kV Transmission Line Project
Ref. No. PB060202-PP0008

1. The ***National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)***, through the ***CY2006 Corporate Budget*** intends to apply the sum of P4,320,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for ***Service Contract for the Parcellary Survey, Relocation and Subdivision Survey of the Affected Main/Sub-lots of Kirahon - Maramag 230 kV Transmission Line Project / PR No. ESD-06-000013813***. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. The *TransCo* now calls for the submission of ***Letters of Intent (LOIs)*** from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for ***Science Contract for the Parcellary Survey, Relocation and Subdivision Survey of the Affected Main/Sub-lots of Kirahon - Maramag 230 kV Transmission Line Project***. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before ***May 14, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*** at ***the address below*** and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom by paying the nonrefundable fee of Php500.00. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: ***May 15, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.*** at ***the address below***. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.
3. The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted ***LOIs*** and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The criteria and rating system for short listing are:
   - *(a) Applicable Experience of the Firm* - *40 Points*
   - *(b) Qualification of Personnel to be Assigned to the Job* - *30 Points*
   - *(c) Current Workload Relative to Capacity and Equipment Capability* - *30 Points*

   Note : The bidder/s who shall meet the minimum score of 70 points shall be included in the short list, provided that the bidder/s meets the required minimum requirement/s in any of the above criteria. Bidder/s who fail to meet the minimum requirement/s in any of the above criteria will get a zero (0) point on the said criteria and said bidder/s shall be automatically disqualified.
4. ***LOIs*** must be delivered by hand, through mail, or facsimile to the address below ***from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*** on or before ***May 14, 2006***.
5. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification. The PROCURING ENTITY shall evaluate bids using the ***Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS)*** procedure. The PROCURING ENTITY ***shall indicate the weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals***. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
6. Interested consultants may obtain further information from *TransCo* at the address given below from *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*
7. The contract shall be completed within ***one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of acceptance of Purchase Order***.
8. *TransCo* reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. OSCAR M. CAMERINO
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road,
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 981-2206 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) OSCAR M. CAMERINO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – April 29 & May 5, 2006)

Prices of select goods in Metro Manila (last week of April 2006)

Commodities	Balara	Balintawak	Muñoz	Farmers	Q-mart	Prevailing market price*	Price range
RICE							
Premium	25.00	28.00	30.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	25.00-30.00
Ordinary	24.00	23.00	22.00	25.00	22.00	22.00	22.00-25.00
SUGAR							
White	40.00	39.00	40.00	40.00	39.00	40.00	39.00-40.00
Washed	35.00	34.00	38.00	35.00	32.00	35.00	32.00-38.00
Brown	30.00	32.00	35.00	32.00	32.00	32.00	30.00-35.00
COOOKING OIL							
Lapad	18.00	14.00	18.00	17.00	15.00	18.00	14.00-18.00
Litro	38.00	34.00	40.00	42.00	40.00	40.00	38.00-42.00
BATH SOAP							
Safeguard	20.00	17.00	18.00	18.00	16.75	18.00	16.75.-20.00
Palmolive	17.00	16.00	18.00	16.00	16.50	17.00	16.00-18.00
DETERGENT SOAP (bar)							
Tide	28.00	24.00	19.00	21.00	21.00	21.00	19.00-28.00
Mr. Clean	24.00	18.00	20.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00-24.00
Surf	24.00	18.00	21.00	24.00	16.00	24.00	16.00-24.00
DETERGENT SOAP (powder)							
Tide	10.00	8.00	8.50	8.50	7.00	8.50	7.00-10 .00
Ariel	10.00	8.00	8.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00-10.00
Mr. Clean	7.50		7.50	7.00	6.75	7.50	6.75-7.50
Surf	7.50	6.50	7.50	8.00	7.00	7.00	6.50-8.00
TOOTHPASTE (sachet)							
Colgate	6.00	6.00	7.00	6.00	6.50	6.00	6.00-7.00
Close-up	6.00	6.00	6.00	7.50	7.00	6.00	6.00-7.50
Beam	4.00		4.00	4.75	5.00	4.00	4.00-5.00
SARDINES							
Ligo	13.00	11.00	12.00	12.50	12.00	12.00	11.00-13.00
Young's Town	13.00	10.50	13.00	13.50	13.00	13.00	10.50-13.50
Mega	11.00		11.50	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00-11.50
NOODLES							
Lucky Me	6.00	5.50	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.50-6.00
Maggi	6.00		6.00	6.00	5.75	6.00	5.75-6.00
SHAMPOO (sachet)							
Sunsilk	5.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00-5.00
Vaseline	5.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.00-5.00
VINEGAR (pouch)							
Datu Puti	6.00	4.75	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	4.75-6.00
SOY SAUCE (pouch)							
Datu Puti	6.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00-6.00
MILK							
Bear Brand	41.00	40.00	41.00	41.00	41.00	41.00	40.00-41.00
Alaska	41.00	39.50	40.50	41.00	39.75	41.00	39.50-41.00
Coffee Mate	36.00	40.00	38.00	41.00	41.00	41.00	36.00-41.00
COFFEE							
Nescafe	35.00	33.00	35.00	36.00	35.00	35.00	33.00-36.00
FISHERY (per kilo)							
Tilapia	70.00	60.00	75.00	80.00	70.00	70.00	60.00-80.00
Sugpo	400.00	400.00	400.00	420.00	400.00	400.00	400.00-420.00
Tulingan	90.00	70.00	100.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	70.00-100.00
Bangus	100.00	80.00	100.00	100.00	90.00	100.00	80.00-100.00
Galunggong	100.00	70.00	100.00	100.00	80.00	100.00	70.00-100.00
Tuyo	150.00	100.00	150.00	130.00	120.00	150.00	100.00-150.00
Tinapa	150.00	100.00	120.00	140.00	120.00	120.00	100.00-150.00
Daing	180.00	120.00	140.00	180.00	120.00	180.00	120.00-180.00
Dilis	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	160.00	120.00	120.00-160.00
MEAT and POULTRY							
Pork	140.00	135.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	135.00-140.00
Beef	220.00	190.00	220.00	225.00	200.00	220.00	190.00-225.00
Chicken	100.00	90.00	100.00	110.00	90.00	100.00	90.00-110.00
Chicken egg per piece	4.50	3.60	3.50	3.50	4.00	3.50	3.50-4.50
VEGETABLES							
Tomato	50.00	50.00	50.00	60.00	55.00	50.00	50.00-60.00
Garlic	100.00	90.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	90.00-100.00
Onion	40.00	44.00	40.00	60.00	50.00	40.00	40.00-60.00
Sayote	15.00	10.00	15.00	20.00	15.00	15.00	10.00-20.00
Ampalaya	50.00	40.00	50.00	60.00	40.00	50.00	40.00-60.00
Sitaw	40.00	30.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	30.00-40.00
Carrots	50.00	36.00	50.00	45.00	40.00	50.00	36.00-50.00
Eggplant	60.00	40.00	50.00	50.00	35.00	50.00	35.00-60.00
Kangkong	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Pechay	30.00	30.00	30.00	40.00	35.00	30.00	30.00-40.00
Munggo	50.00	46.00	50.00	60.00	56.00	50.00	46.00-60.00
Potato	40.00	30.00	40.00	40.00	36.00	40.00	30.00-40.00
Ginger	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
Coconut	10.00	12.00	15.00	12.00	10.00	10.00	10.00-15.00
Gabi	15.00	10.00	15.00	25.00	10.00	15.00	10.00-25.00
FRUITS							
Mango	60.00	40.00	50.00	50.00	40.00	50.00	40.00-60.00
Sunkist	10.00	10.00	12.00	12.50	10.00	10.00	10.00-12.50
Banana	25.00	25.00	25.00	30.00	35.00	25.00	25.00-30.00

*Prevailing market price is the value observed most frequently among the five public markets.

COMPILED BY: LARA JULIE BEDONIA/ WARREN ADILLE/ JABNER VELASCO/ VERNICE ANN PUNO/ JOSEPH IAN BELEN

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2006-074	1 Lot Impact Assessment of LANDBANK Projects and System Development Life Cycle Documentation	P 4,000,000.00	LBP Funds

Interested consultants must submit their LOIs and Eligibility Documents on or before the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: **May 10, 2006, 1:00 p.m. at General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza Building, 1598 M.H del Pilar cor Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila.** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Only those that are eligible will be entitled to procure the Bid Documents, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00,** and submit bids.

The BAC shall determine the eligibility of interested consultants in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) and other government rules and regulations. Other eligibility requirements are the following:
a. Must have at least five (5) years experience in conducting Post-Implementation Evaluation of System Project.
b. Must have at least three (3) completed and/or on-going contracts similar to the item for bid, for the last two (2) years at least equal to 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract.
c. Must have at least one (1) Post Implementation Evaluation and one (1) SDLC Documentation projects successfully implemented.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least 60% interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

LANDBANK shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS) procedure. The weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals shall be 75% and 25%, respectively. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Bid Documents.

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI—April 28 & May 5, 2006)

Coping with the oil price hike

From page B2-1

tured goods.

However, a survey of public markets in Metro Manila showed that prices of fish, vegetables and fruits have increased.

"Prices of agricultural products are still unchanged. If we noticed some changes, the increases have been minor. These have nothing to do with oil price hike, but due to some other factors like the weather season and supply shortage," said Cristine Baldelamer, agriculturist I of the DA.

According to Manette Tingin, DTI Trade and Industry development specialist, manufacturers of processed goods have no plan to increase the price of their product.

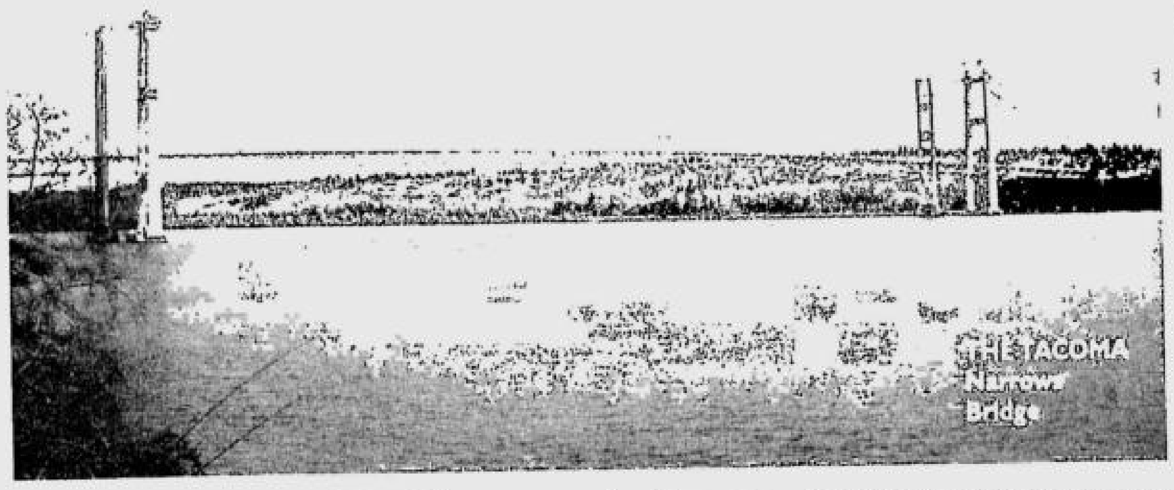
"This is what they (manufacturer) have agreed during the National Price Coordinating Council meeting on April 25," she added.

Although DA considers a P1-P2 increase on prices of some agricultural products as just a small increase, De los Santos and Silva believe that more increases are in store and that all they can do is prepare for the worst.

"Perhaps I will try to adjust again my belt a little more tighter ... although it will surely hurt," said 49-year-old homemaker Josefine Baldemor.

Wherever in world, public nod needed for toll roads

By Marlene N. Ochoa
Contributor



SEATTLE, WASHINGTON—WALT, the tour guide, described that day in Seattle as a "rainy summer day." Of course, he hastened to add, it would also be rainy in Seattle in winter, spring and fall. In short, this was Seattle at any time of the year-cold, windy, and raining.

But back at the Seattle Marriott Waterfront Hotel where I was attending a workshop, the cold weather was belied by the warm atmosphere. This was a gathering of industry colleagues and associates of The International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA). Its website says: "IBTTA is the worldwide alliance of toll operators and associated industries that provides a forum for sharing knowledge and ideas to promote and enhance toll-financed transportation services."

This particular workshop is called "Organization Management" with focus on public relations, community outreach, sponsorships, and marketing. This was the reason for my presence here.

My company, Manila North Tollways Corporation (MNTC), felt that a colleague and I could profit from the experiences of other tolled facilities in the world while, at the same time, sharing our own Philippine experience in gaining public acceptance for the NLEX.

In Atlanta, Georgia, the proposal to convert Georgia Highway 316 into a limited access, interstate style corridor was met with resistance after the Georgia Department of Transportation decided to fund it by turning the highway into a toll road. The state Department of Transportation and the State Road and Tollway Authority put together a communications and public relations effort to bring the common folks and local constituents into the circle of debate encouraging them to say their piece about the project in a fair and open process.

Lisa Thompson of the State Road and Tollway Authority and Vicki Gavalas of the Department of Transportation said a community awareness task force was formed with the objective of securing public buy in where key stakeholders—commuters, other drivers, governor's office, contractors, local governments, employees, business and financial community, tourists, and media—were given plenty of opportunity to participate in the debate. "Public input was crucial to the decision making on the final project," they said. The result: Public involvement of all sectors was secured and the project gained open approval from those who mattered—ordinary people who were allowed a fair and transparent hearing.

Hearing out what the public has to say is as serious a business at the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC).

Frank Kempf, assistant chief engineer of PTC, said that "early on, the commission decided that the community was one of our best assets in promoting a project." So before they even got to the drawing table for the new Mon/Fayette Expressway, Kempf said that PTC formed a Design Advisory Team composed of 10-15 community representatives nominated by community leaders and five to six technical advisers from the PTC and its consultants.

The team considered inputs on environment and social impact as well as engineering and financial aspects. The result: An expressway that the public has a direct stake in and so call it their own.

The community is always a critical consideration in designing a new toll facility.

The following day's technical tour of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge and Open Road Tolling showed the high value placed in ensuring goodwill with the community.

Both David Pope, toll systems manager of Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Claudia Cornish, media relations manager, underscored the importance of public consent in pushing forward a new project. As part of their community relations effort, a nearby park, which otherwise would have remained unnoticed, has been developed by WSDOT, providing a viewing area where one can catch a breathtaking sight of what WSDOT calls "our parallel future."

That "parallel future" refers to the SR-16-New Tacoma Narrows Bridge, a new suspension bridge, now 75 percent complete, hanging side by side with the existing 1950 Narrows Bridge. When completed in spring 2007, the project will feature two parallel suspension bridges, each carrying three lanes of traffic, and improvements to 3.4 miles of SR 16 roadway. Yes, both bridges are suspended by cables and are a wonder to behold.

An important point was made about the design of the new bridge. Cornish said that the new one was deliberately made not to look like the old one in deference to a concern by the National Historical Commission which argued that the historical value of the old bridge would diminish if duplicated. Again, Cornish emphasized that public approval was a key factor leading to the WSDOT's full agreement with the preservers of historical icons, not to copy the design of the old bridge.

At a cocktail party, discussion drifted from the technical into the social impact of a tolled facility.

Maria Sholly, director of Autostrade International of Virginia O & M Inc., said that any toll road could benefit from the perspective of connecting to the public first before any major decision is undertaken. Sholly is one of the few women in the industry who heads and manages toll road operations. Hence, she is familiar with the day to day need to connect and reach out and create bridges with the public.

The NLEX experience is convincing evidence of the crucial role stakeholders play in the successful completion and operation of a project. I told her before MNTC went into commercial operation of the NLEX in February 2005, we reached out to our different stakeholders in government, nongovernment organizations, media, and various transport groups. We listened to the different viewpoints, and whenever possible, used their suggestions as inputs to decision making.

What I got from the workshop is an impression that we, here at MNTC, have done right—and our approach has been validated by the reports and testimonials of like-minded toll road communicators around the world.

I came away confident that, in terms of ideas, we do not belong to the Third World at all.

Franchisors tie-up with franchisees

ALCOBER

THE FOOD BUSINESS IS ONE DYNAMIC industry that entices a vast range of entrepreneurs looking to serve Filipino families who enjoy simple meals served in a homey ambience. While the more popular option is to open a full franchise for a favorite fast food or restaurant chain, some businessmen are now considering the joint venture arrangement to guarantee a win-win situation for both the franchise owner and the partners.

Pancake House's CCP Complex-Harbour Square branch is an example. The branch is owned by the franchisor and a group of entrepreneurs—Benjie Alcober, Mario Cruz and Tony de Rivera. The joint venture has seen this Pancake House, opened last year, exceeding its target sales. Alcober points to the prime location, the quality and consistency delivered by the restaurant, the franchisor's expertise in management and operations and their group's business inputs as keys to the outlet's success.

"The joint venture has a lot of advantages over 100 percent franchising, among them the very strong operations management by Pancake House which we can readily utilize," says Alcober. "They know how to run their restaurant so you can definitely see the attention they provide to every detail in operations."

The three are all retirees from a big company. They decided to go into the food business three years ago. "They tasked me to oversee the operations because I'm the one with the experience in marketing, while they serve as the silent partners. Now, we have two restaurants and it's been an immensely enjoyable experience," Alcober relates.

After the success of their first restaurant franchise, the three started scouting for another food chain to handle. First on Alcober's mind was Pancake House. "They have a strong following among families who have kids who grew up with the restaurant."

Initially, Pancake House offered them a 100 percent franchise, but eventually, the franchisor expressed their interest to form a joint venture with Alcober's group for Pancake House CCP Complex-Harbour Square because of its strategic location fronting the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The outlet now attracts tourists, participants of conventions, and businessmen frequenting the vicinity of Roxas Boulevard, along with the theater people and audience of the CCP.

"We chose the joint venture to ensure success for all parties. It was very easy to process the deal with Pancake House. In two months, we were in agreement. They are very professional. In fact, they provided us conservative estimates which is important when going into investments," said Alcober.

The site was negotiated by the franchisor with Meedson Properties, the company which owns Harbour Square—the food complex where Pancake House stands along with other food establishments.

Currently, Pancake House operates 35 full franchise outlets, five joint venture outlets, and 20 company-owned stores, totaling 60 branches all over the country.

Fast-food firm's 65-year-old fan

NG

RESTAURANTS HAVE THEIR FAIR share of loyal customers. But there are people driven by a fierce compulsion like Albert Ng, a 65-year old patron so loyal to McDonald's that he has visited all of its branches scattered across the country.

Ng has visited more McDonald's branches in the Philippines than any other person in McDonald's 25-year history. He proudly says he has already visited all McDonald's branches nationwide.

To sample his favorite 1 pc. Chicken McDo with Spaghetti Meal, Ng has been in the most accessible to the most remote McDonald's branches.

Since 1985, Ng has been combing through Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao just to bask under the glow of the Golden Arches. In fact, he has visited McDonald's branches as far north as Ilocos Norte and as down south as Zamboanga.

Ng is serious about his McDonald's expeditions. He even has the receipts to prove it.

Inside his red clear book are food receipts from the McDonald's branches he has visited in the span of 11 years. There is a slot for each branch, diligently numbered and segregated at four receipts per page. One may find some slots empty but Ng is quick to explain that the receipts that belong there have faded away, literally.

"I kept them in a box for a while. When I checked, the receipts turned blank because the ink had faded from the thermal paper. From then on, I photocopy my receipts before I put them here," says Ng as he refers to his McDonald's manifest, the cover of which is adorned by a cheerful 8x11 head shot of him and Ronald McDonald.

He then presented another red clear book filled with photos of different McDonald's branches including snap shots of him with the crew. He proudly points out one photo of himself in his car taken at McDonald's El Pueblo—his cherished souvenir as the first drive-thru customer of that branch. There are also pages filled with hotel accommodation receipts and bus, ferry and plane tickets bearing dates that coincide with his provincial visits to various McDonald's.

"It's very easy for somebody from Cebu or Davao to fax me a McDonald's receipt to add to my collection. That is why I keep these tickets and receipts because these things help vouch for my presence in that area at the time I visited McDonald's," he explains.

Ng treasures these receipts as objects of pride, much like trophies and medals displayed on living room next to the TV set. They represent his enduring love for McDonald's—the food, the people, the friendly and familiar atmosphere, and the sheer unadulterated happiness he feels each time he enters its doors that keeps him coming back for more.

"Even if McDonald's grows to a thousand branches, I will try to visit all of them. I will continue to collect McDonald's receipts as long as I'm here."

McDonald's is the world's number one quick service restaurant, now on its 25th year in the Philippines.

Honoring 10 Filipino achievers

TO CELEBRATE ITS 75TH ANNIVERsary, Lupel Marketing, the exclusive distributor of UNI writing instruments in the Philippines has announced the names of the awardees for its first UNI Circle of Ten Achievers.

The awardees are: Public service, Sen. Richard Gordon; media/entertainment, Cecilia "Cheche" Lazaro; business, Splash Corporation president and CEO Dr. Rolando Hortaleza; medicine, Dr. Gregorio Pastorfide; architecture, architect Ed Calma; music, Gerard Salonga; design, Carlo Tanseco; education-academe Liza Alvarez; education-student Rouchel Briones and junior achiever, gifted child Mishka Ligot.

The awardees were chosen based on their ability to take advantage of opportunities in their chosen field or profession, set directions and effectively undertake major achievements. Their actions should have lasting impact on their industries and on the community. Each awardee must have also brought his company or organization to a position of strength and stability. Other criteria include outstanding performance for the past three years, exemplary image, awards and recognition and sociocivic involvements.

Gordon is credited, among other things, for jumpstarting the Philippine tourism industry by instituting the "Wow Philippines" campaign during his stint as tourism secretary. He is now the chair of the Philippine National Red Cross.

Lazaro is a multi-awarded broadcaster, TV producer and host whose long-running show The Probe Team has set the standards for TV documentary.

Hortaleza created Splash Corporation, a multibillion peso cosmetic empire, from P12,000 in 1985.

Pastorfide is a renowned doctor in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Calma was chosen as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) in the field of architecture in 2002.

Salonga started playing the piano at age 5 and has now made a name for himself as a musical director, arranger, conductor and record producer.

Tanseco is one of the youngest and innovative designers the country has produced. He is a merchandise consultant for the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem).

One of his brainchild is the Figaro Coffee Company of which he is the creative director.

Alvarez is a chemistry teacher at Rizal High School who has been cited as one of the most outstanding teachers by the Department of Education, National Capital Region.

Briones is a student at the Caloocan City Science High School and is the 2005 Chemistry Quiz Bee National Champion.

Ligot won the 2005 Globe Gizmo Debate Tournament at the age of 11.

Lupel Marketing Corporation has been the exclusive distributor of the UNI Ball line of writing instruments for over 35 years. The company has an exclusive agreement with the Mitsubishi Pencil Company of Japan which has been making quality writing instruments for 120 years.

System that collects, repairs, returns

HOW SHOULD A COMPUTER MANUFACTURER provide customer service? Is there a benchmark? How should a customer support system be designed in order to meet customers' increasing and most discriminating demands?

An intrinsic aspect of the Acer Services and Support system is its "Collect, Repair, and Return" procedure, designed to care for customers' needs in the repair of their laptops, desktops, and any other Acer product in their possession.

Simply put, Acer customers only need to wait at home or the office for Acer people to arrive and "collect" the item for repair.

No need to move for Acer's technical support team to come and "repair" the item at authorized Acer Service Providers (ASPs), and "return" the product in a jiffy, in good, solid, working condition, almost like fresh from the shelves. It's fast becoming the "in" thing when it comes to customer service today, and effectively puts Acer at the forefront of this pioneering idea.

The Acer Care Service, an online customer service support system, on the other hand, has already proven itself as a vital cog in Acer's efforts in continuously improving its relationship with its valued clients.

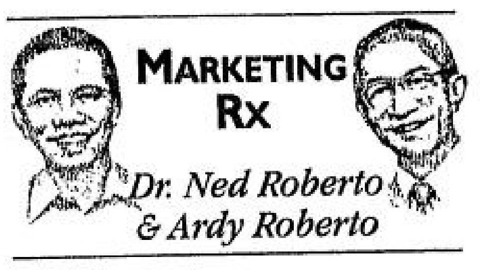
This multidimensional online service program is designed primarily to provide full-scale technical support to Acer branch offices in all Acer territories around the world.

But what bakes the cake, so to speak, is Acer's "Extended Warranty" policy for its notebooks, desktops. From the standard 1-year warranty, Acer decided to "uplift" that standard by extending the warranty by another two years, for a three-year warranty advantage. Acer customers can now look forward to more dedicated, timely, and hassle-free repair service in the next three years, including unlimited repair requests, and national and international warranty coverage (for notebooks only).

As an added element, Acer dealers and end-users can also directly access specific programs as well, examples of which are downloading of corresponding applications, software and drivers, even service manuals, for all Acer products in the market. There's even a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) link right at the Acer Philippines website, www.acer.com.ph, where customers are provided basic knowledge about usage issues.

BUSINESS *Friday*

Lessons from Young Market Masters Awardees—III



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

JADE MANALAYSAY TULIO, VICE PRESident for marketing, HBC. YMMA awardee for consumer products-retail marketing.

Under Jade Tulio, HBC achieved 100 percent increase in aided awareness through her brainchild, Tatak Exclusibo campaign that in turn registered 500 percent growth of HBC's Beauty Exclusive private label product lines.

Prior to HBC, Tulio was business unit head in Pascual Laboratories and senior product manager in L'Oreal Philippines. Her marketing achievements include the successful launch of Betadine feminine wash that grew the category by 100 percent and captured 10 percent market share from the lone market player then.

Tulio was also responsible for the remarkable re-launch of Potencee Vitamin C that surpassed volume performance per tablet of its competitor by 15 percent and yielded 107 percent growth in the category.

In 2005, the Philippine Retailer's Association honored HBC with the Outstanding Retailer of the Year Award, recognizing the application of Tulio's innovative ideas in beauty retailing, such as HBC E-looks magazine, HBC's customized mini magalog, HBC website, E-Card paperless gift cheques, 1-day lowest pricing, 1-hour 50-percent off, institutionalized media tour, launching of the SanSan Healthy and Kulay marketing campaign leading to HBC's first billion sales in 2005.

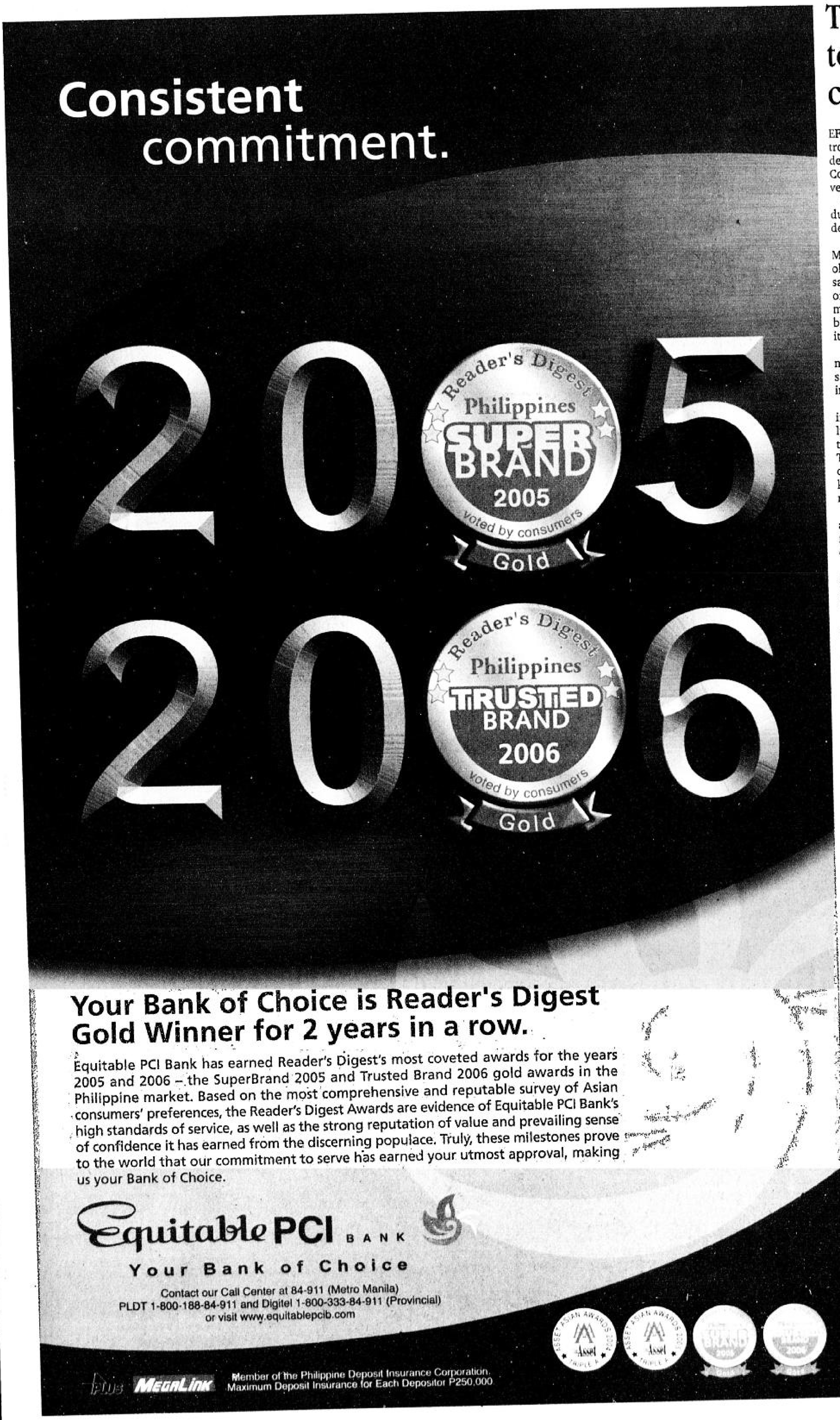
Here's Tulio's advice for young marketers:

"Start by getting exposed to many angles of the marketing discipline while you are still young—from advertising to special events to design. Or you can start early with marketing through brand management or advertising through management trainee programs offered by companies. Whatever you choose, do not look at compensation first even if you have the best scholastic records or are bemedalled graduates. Look at the training opportunities that the position and company can offer.

"Do not keep on jumping from one job or company to another. After initial years of 'experimenting,' make up your mind on a career, decide to focus and pursue that field.

"My success secret? I always visualize everyday in my mind how I look, what I have, what goal have I accomplished. And it happens. It transforms into reality. Of course, nothing beats hard work and believing in the value of teamwork."

The 2006 YMMA program board of judges includes Rudy Ang, dean of the John Gokongwei School of Management at the Ateneo de Manila University, Samie Lim, chairman of the Philippine Franchise Association, and Ding Salvador, former president of Johnson & Johnson Asean and currently managing consultant of Lamoiyan Corp. (makers of Happee Toothpaste), with respected research agency, TNS Trends providing background research checks on the winners.


Consistent commitment.

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Reader's Digest Philippines SUPER BRAND 2005 voted by consumers Gold
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Teaching teens to invest in capital market

EFFECTIVE HANDLING OF MONEY IS INtroduced early to third year high school students of Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) through their classes in Investment Management.

This pioneering high school subject introduces diversified investment options for student savings.

"We are very pleased to offer Investment Management to students as young as 15 years old to help them acquire a strong desire to save," said SISC principal Teresita Yague. "By offering students the option to invest in stock market if they choose, we are making it possible for them to put their savings into profitable use.

"They also learn to diversify their investment portfolio which is critical when you are saving for something as important as providing for the future."

SISC students' new investment options include investing, either partially or entirely, in the Philippines Stock Exchange through a reputable stock brokerage firm. They manage their investments online, including selecting the investments, and even keep track of their investment's performance on a daily basis.

In addition to the stock market, students are also given an overview of investing in the foreign exchange market, money market, and derivatives market.

"With the addition of the Investment Management Program, our students can develop a college savings plan for their future education," Yague said.

SISC is located at 1281 Tripical Ave., Luxembourg St. For inquiries, call 820-0935.

Promoting credit responsibility

CREDIT CARDS CARDS HAVE BECOME powerful and convenient tools to manage one's finances if used responsibly. The Credit Card Association of the Philippines, now on its 25th year, remains upbeat as far as the credit card industry and consumer awareness is concerned.

According to Manuel Santiago, CCAP chair, "Empowerment and responsibility go hand in hand. We believe that for people to be able to get the full value and convenience of using a credit card, they need to be equally responsible for it."

Rolando Tanchanco, CCAP president, shares that, "Credit cards are very convenient but when misused, can lead to unmanageable debt. As we promote our products and services, we also educate the consumer on the wise use of credit."

But just what is credit responsibility? Basically, it entails consumer maturity with regards to spending behavior and credit card use. A responsible cardholder borrows within one's means and pays when payment is due.

Moreover, credit responsibility also means being wary of possible fraudulent acts that can be committed against him. The public must realize that the cardholder also bears responsibility as the credit card company to protect the cardholder against theft and fraud. This is why aside from educating consumers on the advantages of maintaining good credit and providing them with security information against theft and fraud, CCAP is also working closely with the proper agencies, especially with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, for consumer protection; Thus the drive to strengthen Republic Act No. 8484 or the law against fraudulent use of credit cards to apprehend and penalize fraudsters.

CCAP's effort to promote credit responsibility has gained ground with the market now realizing the real value of owning and managing a credit card.

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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SUN CELLULAR

A GOWN from a recent show of Inno Sotto, one of very few designers who can afford to present a full collection.

JM GUIAO PUNZALAN

THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

Why today's designers can't stage full collections

There's not much on hand so they have no choice but to make-do and improvise

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THE RECENT PHILIPPINE FASHION Week and other fashion shows have made one thing obvious to us, now more than ever: Designers are getting better at the art of making do. It's not so much the art of fashion design, but the art of improvising with what's on hand.

There's not much on hand, to begin with. The fabric design and selection are limited—crepe, cotton, denim, silk, organza. If a designer wants to upgrade his collection and top himself, like Inno Sotto does, he has to be willing to spend more, usually his own money.

Young designers try to make up for predictable and limited fabric selection by doing all sorts of things with the fabric: tearing and shredding it, fraying it, dyeing or painting it. You name it, our young designers have done it. Therefore, you don't get surprised if the dress or pair of jeans emerges on the ramp looking more "distressed" (like the wall treatment) than the economy, because it's been "battered" in so many ingenious ways. It's smart improvisation.

That's not even counting the times they try to make clothes out of unconventional material, from rubber bands to coco husks and safety pins.

There's nothing basically wrong with this. It tests the designers' creativity and imagination. But then Filipinos are never short on creativity and imagination, certainly not these young designers.

What we're short on is discipline and structure.

The more fashion weeks and fashion shows I see featuring the emerging designers, the more I wonder: How on earth will this new breed learn how to cut, construct, sew, learn the finer art of clothes-making, and develop a sense of proportion, if they have gotten so used to improvising with fabrics? And they don't even have much chance to work with fine fabrics.

No design statement

This is why perhaps when you see today's collections, you can hardly make out the design statement—the silhouette, proportion, color, texture. What you have is visual traffic, all embellishments.

The young designers are learning to embellish even before they can learn to construct clothes. They are made to deconstruct clothes, even before they can construct them. That's not fully their fault; they have scarce resources.

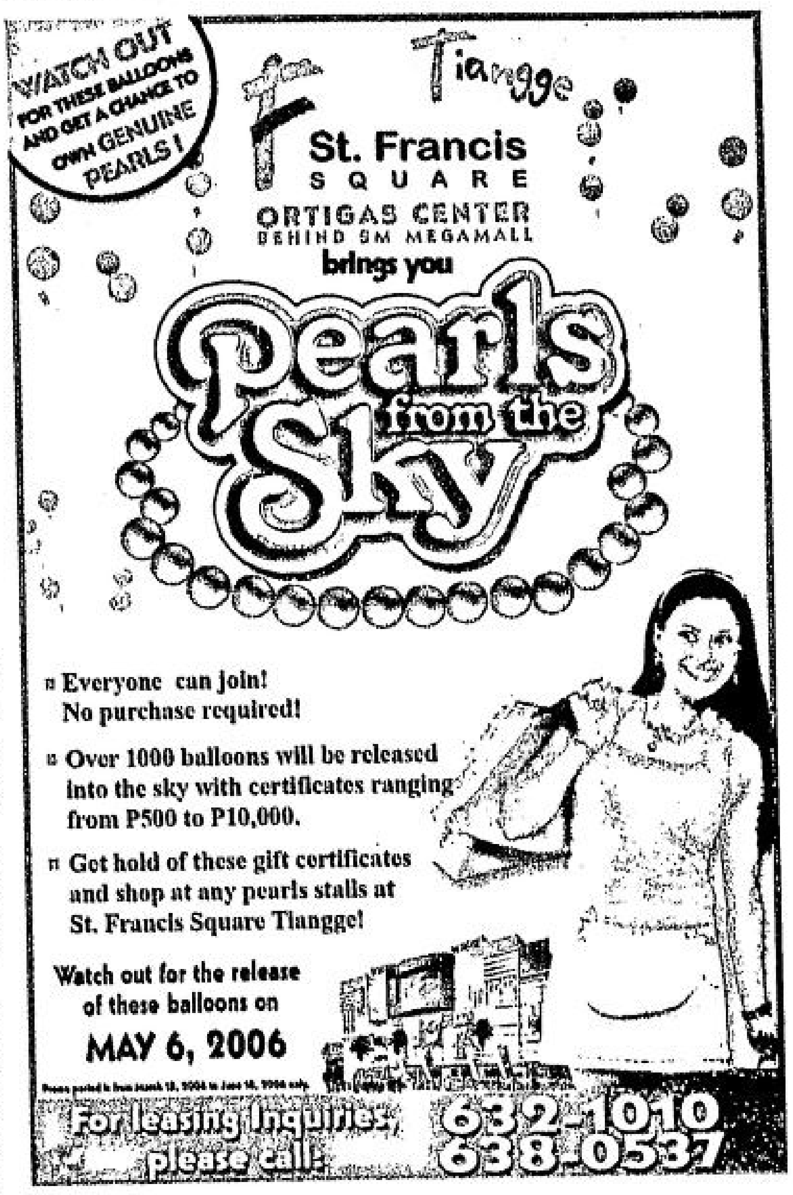
This is why they're stuck with tank tops, spaghetti straps, jeans, and merely decking out this stuff in varying levels of, shall we say, "eye shock." They're meant to shock, not to be worn through at least two years.

In contrast, the previous generations were trained in clothes-making, whether formally or not. They learned to make patterns, cut and sew under the hawk eyes of the senior couturiers they were apprenticing with. They were raised in the rigor of clothes construction, not just design.

They could not only construct but also drape, layer, and try many other techniques with fabric because they were trained to work with all kinds of fabrics, and thus knew exactly how a certain fabric would fall or "behave."

This is perhaps why the fashion show audience could only ogle in awe as it watches one draped or flowing gown after another. One rarely sees intricate, classic construction these days. For instance, in the Citem buyers' show two weeks ago where Cesar Gaupo paraded his fall collection of dressy ensembles and clothes,

WHY TODAY'S/ C4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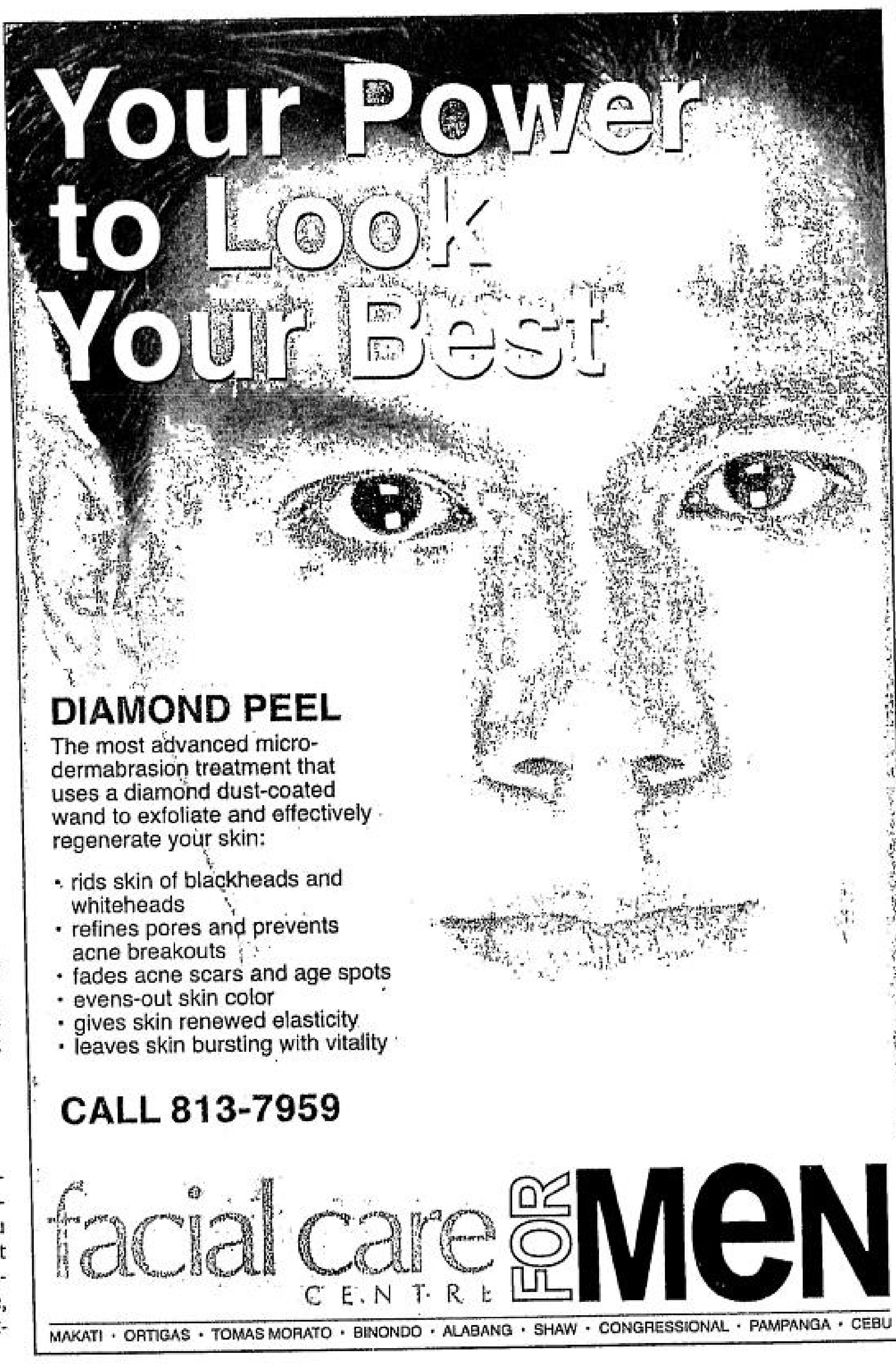
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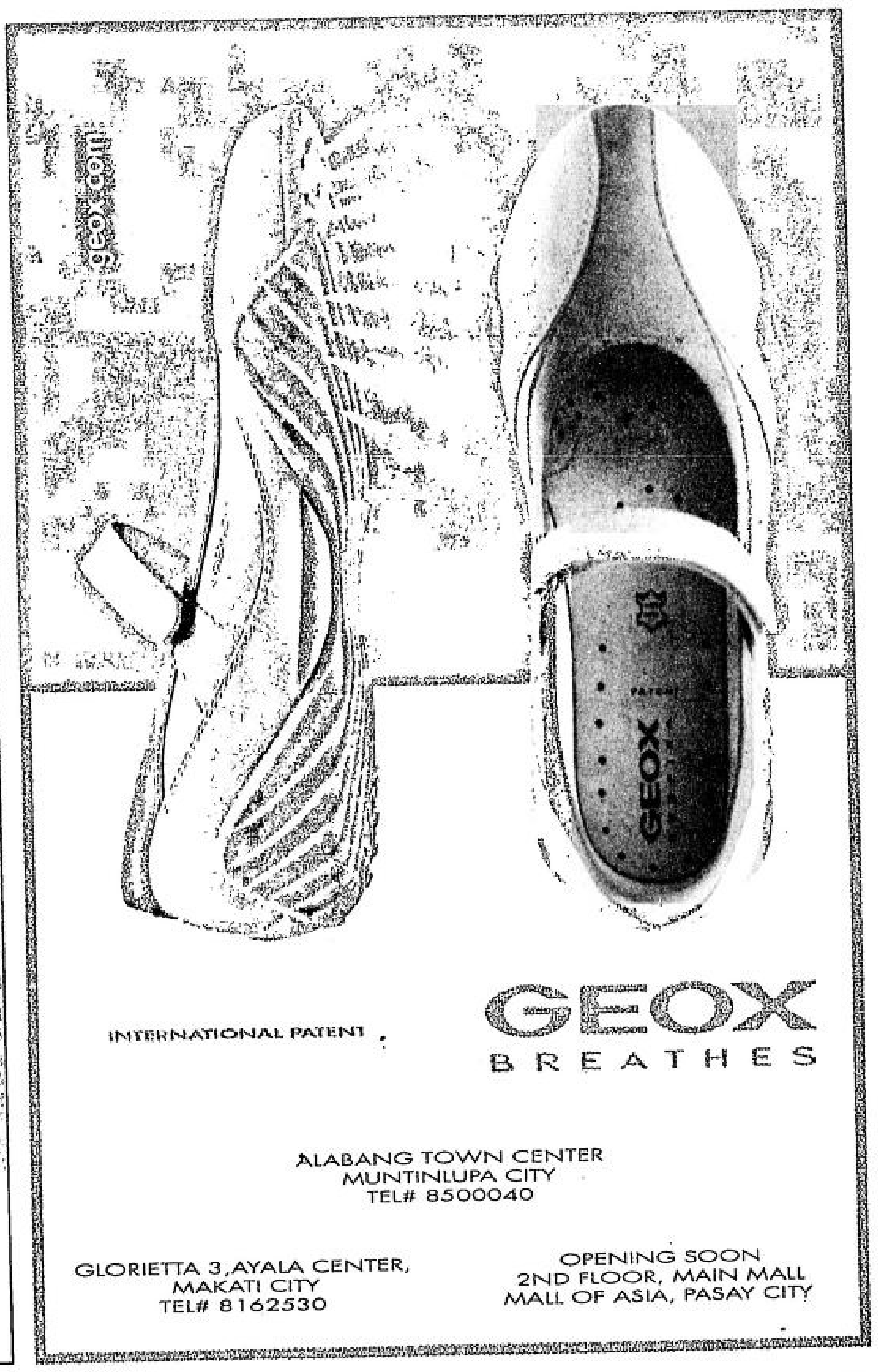
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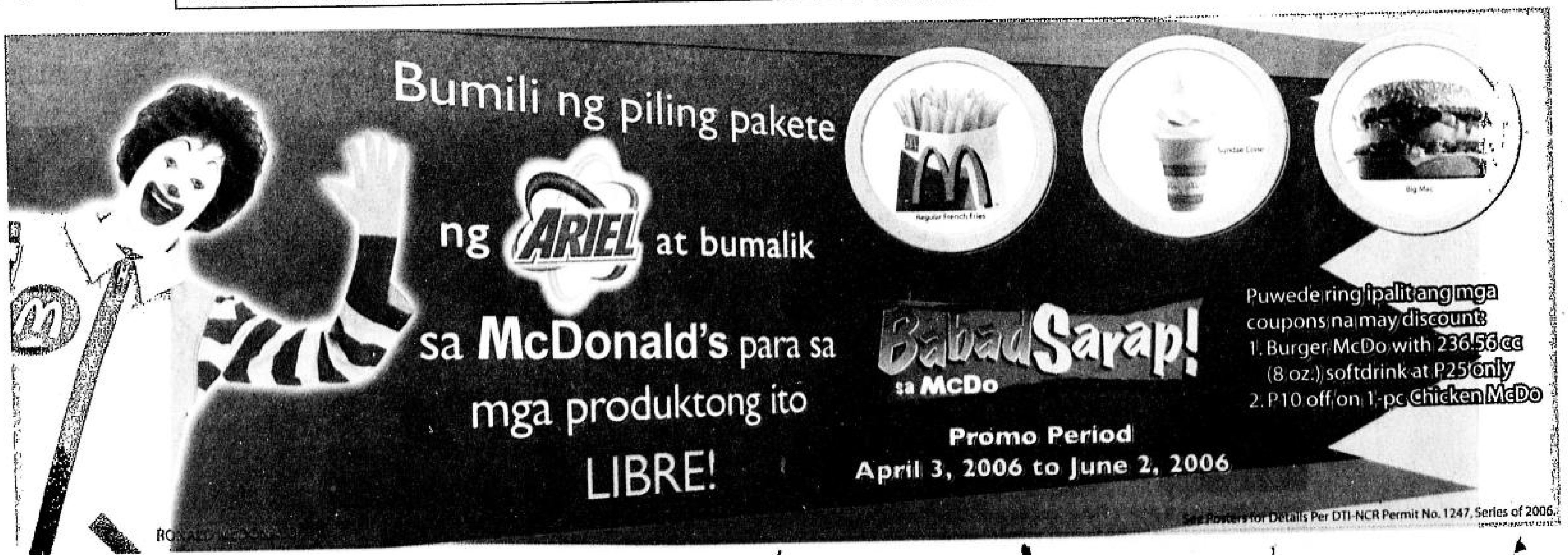
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Promo Period
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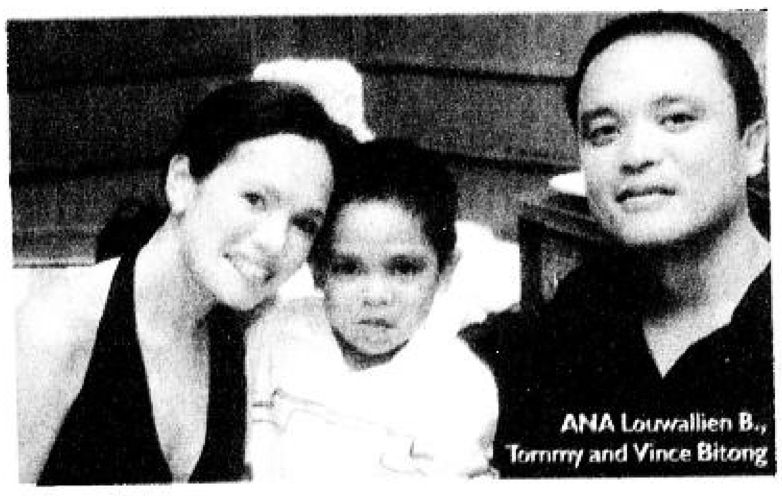
Puwede ring ipalit ang mga coupons na may discount:
1. Burger McDo with 236.56 cc (8 oz.) softdrink at P25 only
2. P10 off on 1-pc Chicken McDo

See Posters for Details Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1247, Series of 2006.

THE CELEBRATORS. Butch Albert and Cris Louwallien A. flank close pals Geny and Lianne Bautista

JOHN Hizon with Rose and John Raniola, and Wanda Louwallien

BOBBY Joseph



ANA Louwallien B., Tommy and Vince Bitong

RALPH Joseph

12 glorious years and counting

POPULAR young couple JR and Boogie Trinidad

CARLO Lopez with his lady love, Monique Albert

ISABEL Bela Vazquez and Ramon Esguerra

MADAME Imelda Romualdez Marcos and TV's Ces Drilon

BOEY Cruz and Helen Dee

EYE-CATCHING China Cojuangco and Victor Manuel

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

FILA'S POWER COUPLE, THE BEAUTIFUL woman of style **Cris Louwallien A.** and husband, business magnate **Butch Albert**, celebrated 12 years of love and devotion, *palanggas*, at the chic Prince Albert Rotisserie of the Hotel Intercontinental.

Naturellement, the couples' closest pals and their *famille* arrived fashionably on time at 6:30 p.m. for cocktails, before sitting down for an excellently prepared dinner by the hotel's top chefs.

Check this out: Rock Lobster Bisque; Prince Albert's super-famous Roasted Rib-eye with Yorkshire Pudding; Braised Sea Bass scented with creamy truffle sauce and the simply amazing dessert of Green Tea Brûlèe, dahlings.

The chosen invitees included **Letty Tordesillas**; our pal **Ralph Joseph** of the popular Ralph Wines & Liquor; **Carlom Narty**; **Rina**, **BJ** and **Monique Albert**; our ace photographer **Alex Van Hagen**; **Sr. Salty Lising**; **Irene Razon**; **Philip** and **Beth Tan**; **Frances Tan**; **Chris Chongson**; **Boom** and **Luisita Guerrero**; **Baby Tingson**; **Mon Unsori**; **Miguel Estrada**; fun **Gerry Zorilla**; and **John Gabriel**.

After dinner, nice Pastor **Gus Lising** commended the couple for 12 years of togetherness, then saxophonist **Vince Lajora** dished out some cool jazz sounds, followed by violinist/guitarist **Leo San Juan**; that set the mood in the classy, cozy atmosphere of the Carlos P. Romulo room, *palanggas*.

The cutting of the eye-catching tiffany-inspired cake was the grand finale. Favors were precious notebooks made by artistic **Rina Albert**, delicately tied with laces and feathers.

Here's to the crystal (15 years) anniversary, *palanggas*.

Effecting change

Armed with the best of intentions, a professional staff and a passion for excellence, dedicated social workers **Maria Luisa Madrigal Vazquez** and alabaster beauty **Baby Cruz** founded a venue for continued learning—the ICI Training Center (ITC), *palanggas*, on 2/F, Franck Provost Bldg., Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati.

Moi saw first-hand ITC's superbly equipped lecture halls, laboratory, cosmetic room as well as a mini library. Initially it will offer diploma courses in Cosmetology, shorter certificate courses and one-day workshops on a variety of topics from health to domestic work, with excellent, trained instructors from both Europe and Asia headed by its president, **Tisha Cruz Bautista** and administrative director **Marga Uy Baula.**

ITC courses are currently recognized and supported by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) of the Philippines.

Last month, the ICI Training Center formally opened. *Naturellement*, philanthropist and book author, vivacious woman of substance **Chito Madrigal Collantes**, snipped the ceremonial ribbon.

The event included the blessing of the premises, an exhibit inaugurated by **Imelda Romualdez Marcos**, no less, and the awarding of certificates to 70 excited students who completed their courses, *palanggas*.

As the chi-chi invitees nibbled on the excellent cocktail finger food by the unbeatable La Tasca, most of them asked about the Household Management and Domestic Training Courses, as well as makeup workshops.

Well-wishers went home with tokens of appreciation—small elegant bags with semiprecious stones as handle accents, gracious gifts from such a worthy endeavor.

Check out this pioneering school, *palanggas*, through 8970383, 8953401 to 03 extension 113 and 104; or fax 8970307.

Luminosity

Renowned brand Lancôme has come out with its latest skincare product.

NeuroWhite was launched with an exhibit at the hip M Café. The first to target both environmental and emotional causes of melanin production, we were told that this product promised a totally luminous skin in just three days, and to erase stubborn spots in four weeks.

Would you believe the product was conceived *après* about 400 studies on almost 85,000 women across Asia? It was specifically researched and developed, and therefore exclusively sold, in Asia, *palanggas*!

Some of our town's hot photographers—**Raymund Isaac, Pat Dy, Xander Angeles, Jo Ann Bitangcol** and **Victor Consunji**—presented their own visions of "radiant beauty," capturing some of Manille's most beautiful women on film. Their inspiration were these women's own natural beauty and flawless skin—**Mariko Jacinto**, a top Rustan's shopper; **Anna Palabyab**, who is doing her residency in medicine; **Marta Araneta**, mother of twin baby boys; gorgeous headturner **Anna Cu-Unjieng**, who is in high-power finance; and vibrant miss with the sunshine smile, **Jackie Cohen-Antonio**, columnist and stylist. Each of the women experienced stress yet still managed to glow! Hey, what's your secret, gals?

"The right skincare, exercise, healthy relationships, a positive outlook and spirituality," plus, I'm sure, dahlings, tons of the right attitude, *n'est-ce pas*! (as in, *di bala*?)

Asking all sorts of questions on this breakthrough skincare were hot host, eye-catching **Joey Mead, Ianne Evangelista**; L'Oreal's *tres charmant* managing director **David Ennes** and Luxury general manager, super nice **Vicky Encarnacion**; **Mariel Chua**; **Vicky** and vivacious **Rose Montenegro**; ETC host **Sam Oh**; **Louele Soong**; slinky **Karen Grupp**; and the Lancôme rah-rah team, including **Sobee Duenas, Zerl Chan, Apple Morales**, with chief makeup artist **Abbygale Arenas-de Leon**.

Rene Barbier chilled white wine and chilled Freixenet champagne kept the chic crowd real cool as they enjoyed the celebration of beauty, *palanggas*.

ALBERT BOYS. BJ, Carlo and Marty

SHIELA and Rajan Gidwani, with Letty Albert

FRANCK Provost's Baby Cruz, philanthropist Chito Madrigal Collantes and sister Ising Madrigal Vazquez

LANCÔME'S pretty senior product manager Zerl Chan

RADIANT Marta Araneta

MELANIE de Leon and Mel Tiangco

THE GANG. Pretty, pretty Tisha Cruz Bautista, Terri Madrigal, Alessandra M. Eduque, Chuchu Madrigal Eduque and Metro Society's Raul Manzano

WOMEN with flawless skin. Ria Romero, Celine Gabriel and Lancôme's Sobee Duenas

TV HOST Tisha Silang gets a relaxing head massage at the Nestea Green Tea Sanctuary in Boracay.

Sunshiny sanctuary

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY to fully relax and unwind on the heavenly beaches of Boracay?

Head off to the Nestea Green Tea Sanctuary, a haven of tranquility where you can experience spa-like ambience and the rejuvenating goodness of the new Nestea Green Tea.

Until tomorrow, Boracay revelers are guaranteed a glorious R&R experience at the Nestea Green Tea Sanctuary where they can get a 10-minute massage treatment for the hand, back or head, or simply relax and chill out at the sanctuary's lounge area where they can listen to soothing music or while away time by reading magazines.

To enjoy this one-of-a-kind Nestea Green Tea experience, Boracay beach lovers must simply purchase a Nestea Green Tea Harmony Pack which includes two 80-g packs or one 200-g pack of Nestea Green Tea powder and one Nestea Green Ice Tea RTD for only P50, available at the Nestea Green Tea Sanctuary.

The purchase also enables customers to join the raffle promo where they can win a Nestea Green Tea Harmony Kit. The kit contains the Nestea Green Tea cd (a collection of soothing rhythms), a hand massager, the Nestea Green Tea Informational Leaflet and a free Nestea Green Tea pack.

Of course, they will not go home without sampling the refreshingly healthy Nestea Green Tea, the first iced tea powdered drink in the market with all-natural green tea extracts that guarantee deep-down refreshment while safeguarding the body against serious illnesses.

Green tea contains the most powerful antioxidant epigallocatechingallate (EGCG or catechins), which protects against heart disease and cancer while keeping the body rejuvenated and relieved from stress.

The Nestea Green Tea Sanctuary will be at the following Boracay resorts: Le Soleil de Boracay Hotel (Station 2) today; and Crystal Sand Beach Resort (Station 1) on May 6.

Before conquering the beaches of Boracay, the Nestea Green Tea Sanctuary also treated mallers to a unique spa-like experience when it recently invaded top malls such as Glorietta Mall, Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Pampanga, Market! Market!, Robinsons Place Manila, Festival Mall Alabang, and SM Megamall.

WITH 200 years of experience behind it, C&J Clark's of the United Kingdom knows shoes from heel to toe, upper to sole.

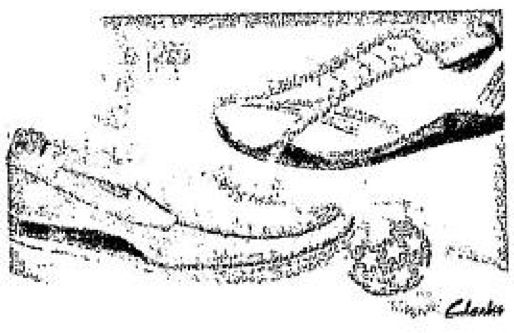
Surefire footwear

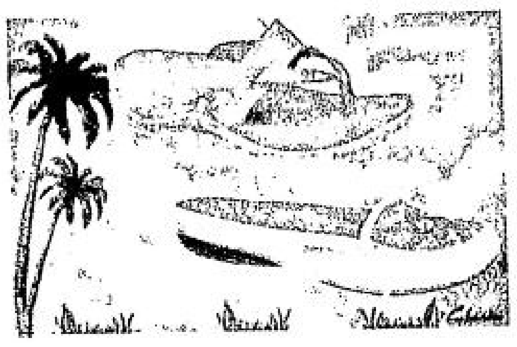
CLARK'S IS A BRAND YOU CAN count on to give you everything you need from a pair of shoes: comfort, durability, fashion and an affordable price tag.

Established almost two centuries ago, C&J Clark's is now the No. 1 footwear retailer in the United Kingdom and is available worldwide (with branches located in 17 Asian countries).

This season, the ladies' line is divided into four collections: Casual, Dressy, Sports Casual and Smart. Casual is composed mainly of trendy flats in every color and style imaginable. The Hydrangea flats are in mint, black and lemon, and would go very well with this season's summer fashion forecast of minis and shorts.

The Dressy side of Clark's is all about wedges, some in nude tones and others in bright colors, such as the Stipa in fuchsia. The Sports Casual collection is for the more on-the-go woman. The shoes provide support for delicate ankles and legs.





Clark's Smart shoes, meanwhile, are classy enough for both work and after-hours partying. Designs are in flats and dressier heels.

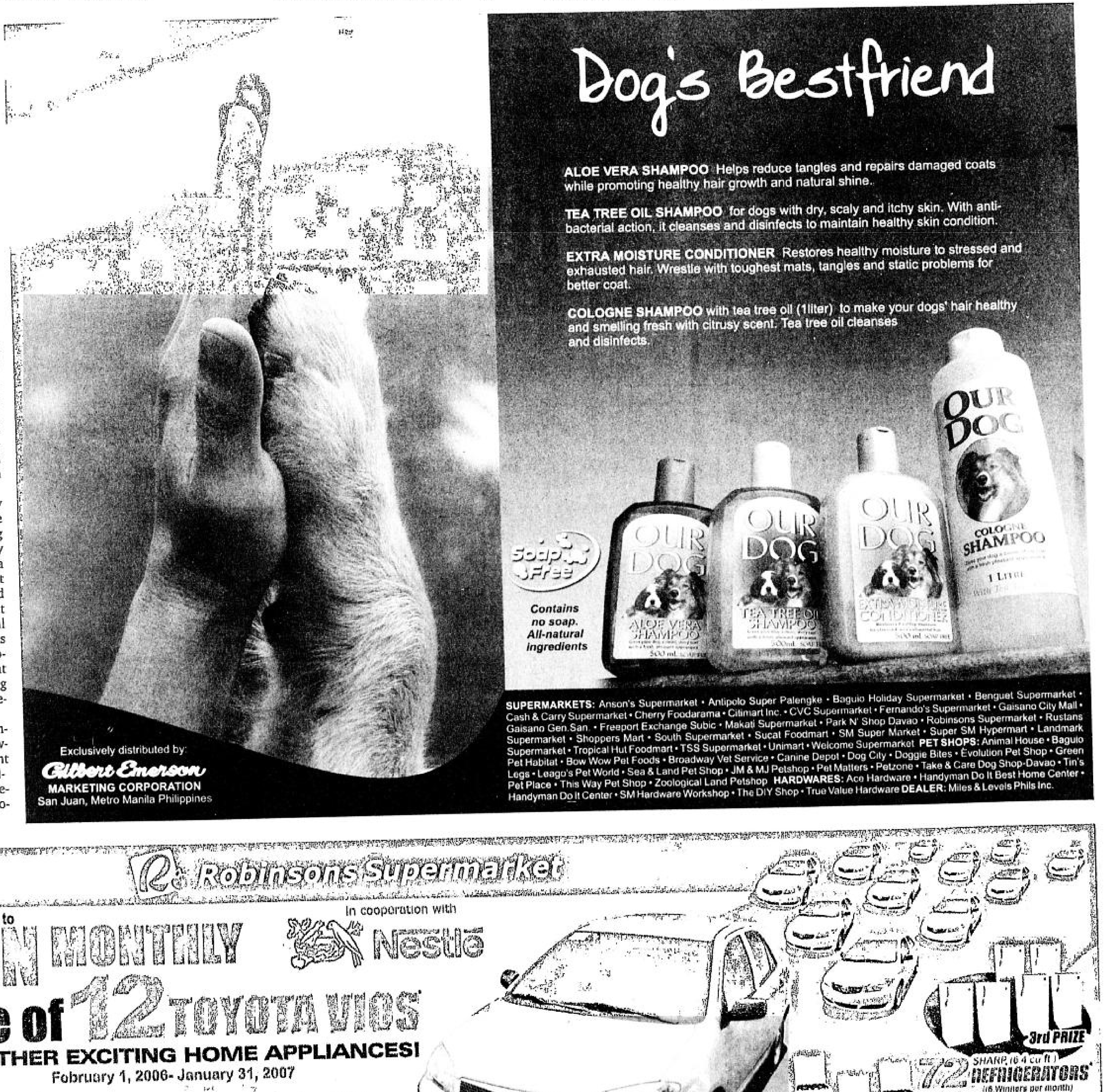
The men's line is divided into three collections: Casual, Everyday Casual and Smart.

The Casual collection ranges from outdoor casual to city casual. The Manos, Maskell, Maskit, Marbough and Ridgeroad designs are great for men who love the roughness of the outdoors, while the Pegasus Fly, Ridgepath and Pegasus Wing are more for the city slickers.

Everyday Casual shoes are a more laidback version of the Casual and are great for both city and outdoor wear.

The men's Smart collection is the counterpart of the women's Dressy collection. The designs can go from work to dressier occasions such as cocktails or formal dinners.

Clark's is distributed by Cinderella Marketing Corporation and is available in SM Megamall and Cinderella Glorietta 3. Visit www.clarks.co.uk



Dog's Bestfriend

ALOE VERA SHAMPOO Helps reduce tangles and repairs damaged coats while promoting healthy hair growth and natural shine.

TEA TREE OIL SHAMPOO for dogs with dry, scaly and itchy skin. With anti-bacterial action, it cleanses and disinfects to maintain healthy skin condition.

EXTRA MOISTURE CONDITIONER Restores healthy moisture to stressed and exhausted hair. Wrestle with toughest mats, tangles and static problems for better coat.

COLOGNE SHAMPOO with tea tree oil (1liter) to make your dogs' hair healthy and smelling fresh with citrusy scent. Tea tree oil cleanses and disinfects.

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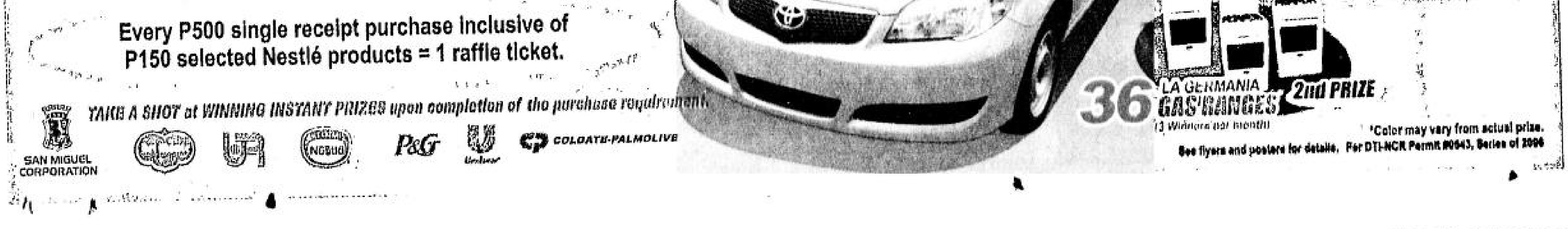

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DONG-A

BACK TO SCHOOL back to National Book Store

CESAR
Gaupo
Fall-Winter
2006

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Why today's designers . . .

From page C1

the audience saw a master's hand with fabric and color. Gaupo showed how to cut and sew to yield volume. But it was volume that didn't drown the body. Sexiness prevailed.

Gaupo, his generation and those before them had another distinct advantage: They had occasions to parade their full collections, whether these be in Bagong Anyo or other gala collections. Until recently, women had occasions to dress up for. These days, one must dress down, not dress up. To be dressed to the hilt is to reveal your age, your old age.

Unless you're Sotto, there's hardly an occasion these days to enable a designer to stage a full collection. There are no patrons, and if there are, they are corporate patrons with their own brand direction.

The new breed of designers, therefore, is hardly trained to make a full collection. Even if they are, they don't have enough funds to stage one.

Corporate sponsors, private patrons and other individuals of means should try funding a designers' full collection. It has an audience, since people are eager to watch fashion shows, especially a full collection. In the long run, it should pay off because it's training the young talent in fashion design, and helping young designers find their own niche in the global market.

That niche is expertly crafted, top-of-the-line clothes, so apart from the mass goods from China. These could include wedding gowns.

Shoplifter's trap

If there's a "girl trap" in the mall, it is Zara. A girl, or even a guy for that matter, finds it hard to leave this "it" store without buying any merchandise, even if it's only shades or a scarf. That's how good the designs are, and how reasonable the price points.

A word of warning to fashionistas who may be tempted to shoplift: Zara's security personnel are trained to spot and snare a shoplifter, no matter how chic she looks, like it did recently.

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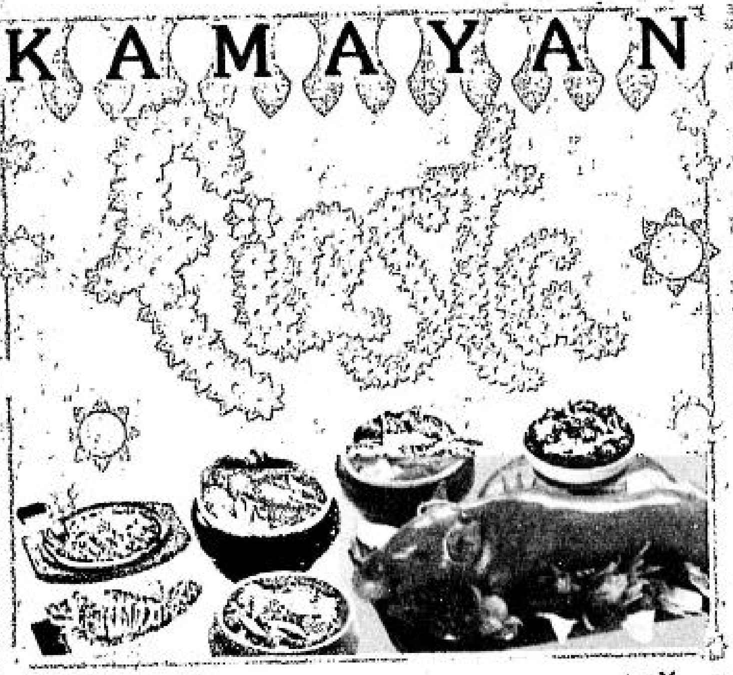

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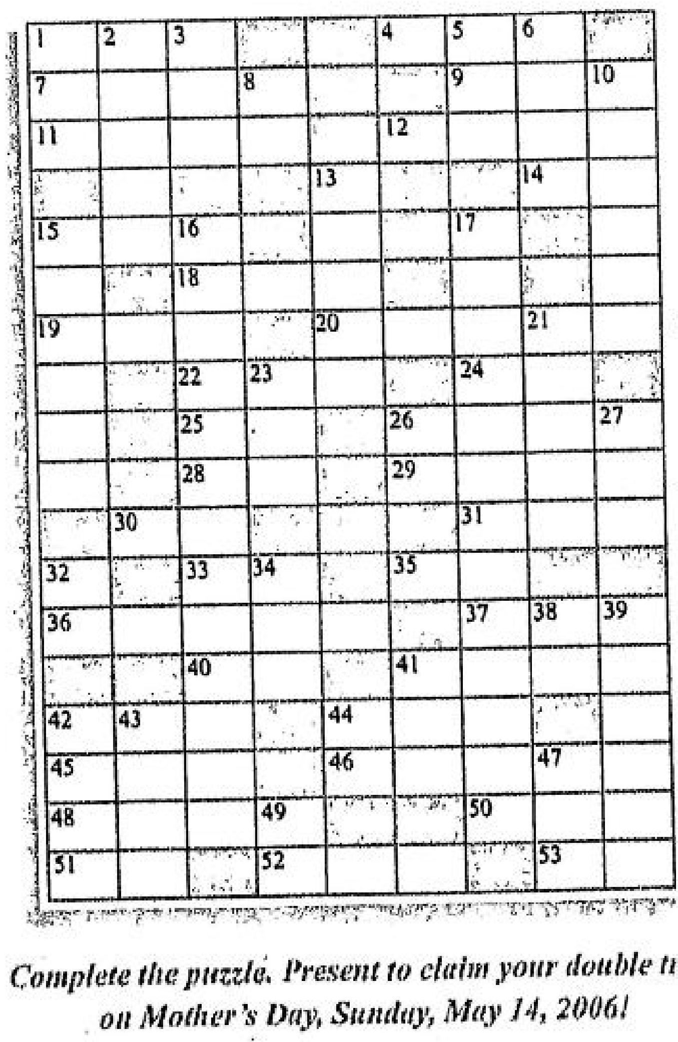
Happy Mother's Day!

MOM Queen of Hearts



ACROSS
1. Filipino mom
4. Abel's mom
7. Virgin ___.
9.____ Maria
11. Movie about picnic insects
12. Spanish Mrs.
14. Tourist trophy abbv.
15. Fitness center
18. Mineral source
19. Electrical unit
20. Go in
22. Males
24. Interjection
25. Self
26. Jose P. Rizal
28. Bach (abbr)
29. Poetry, painting etc.
30. Medical letters
31. Interjections
33. Engineering course,
35. Preposition
36. Blood pumper
37. In favor of
40. Radium
41. Onionlike veggie
42. Female deer
44. Veggie in a pod
45. Paid notices
46. Female horses .
48. Tiny and dusty
50. Mama _ _ _
51. The word "in" in Spanish
52. Mother's month
53. C_ _ news network

DOWN
1. Pampangueño's mom
2. Filipino mom
3. ___ deco
5. Abbr. Of variant
6. Expanded Value Added Tax
8. Alphabet ending
10. Biblical queen
13. ______ of hearts
15. G in GMA
16. Joan Crawford's bio
17. Pearl source
21. Mother _____
23. Norse myth
26. Interjection
27. Spy org.
32. Interjection
34. Period
38. Musical note
39. Japanese mom,
41. Meadow
42. British title
43. Norse god
44. Afternoon
47. Long period
49. Printer's measure .

Complete the puzzle. Present to claim your double treat on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, 2006!

LIFESTYLE
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FASHION

Dressed to Kill

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GRAPHIC DESIGNER MARLONE RUBIO

By Alex Y. Vergara

FROM THEIR TITLES alone, movies classified as "film noir" are bound to leave you with a heavy sense of fear, cynicism, disillusionment, violence and seduction even before the opening credits roll up. Since the suspense element may leave you with a bad case of indigestion, it's probably a good idea to skip the popcorn.

Indeed, rolling hills, snow-capped mountains, kind-hearted ingénues and the laughter of well-fed children are certainly the last images you'll associate with such classics as "Double Indemnity," "The Postman Always Rings Twice," "The Asphalt Jungle," "Sunset Boulevard," "Scarlet Street," "Nightmare Alley," "Murder, My Sweet," "Femme Fatale," "White Heat," "Touch of Evil," "Kiss of Death" and more recently "L.A. Confidential."

Instead, as American film historian Jack Ellis has described such films, what you get are "dark melodramas of crime and corruption, psychological dislocation and aberration, with an artificial visual style and a preoccupation with disordered psyches."

The atmosphere is laden with indecipherable complications, a pervasive sense of threat, fear and helplessness in the face of enigmatic human malevolence. The attitude is pessimistic and the mood is one of fatalism."

The sunny onscreen personas of Julie Andrews, Doris Day, Audrey Hepburn, James Stewart, Gregory Peck and Gene Kelly would have stuck out like sore thumbs in these tumultuous settings. In their stead

DRESSED/ D3

Double Indemnity

On Peter: Pinstripe suit with pink floral shirt by M Barretto. On Henrique: Black/White double-breasted jacket and pants by Anthony Nocom for SM Department Store, inner shirt from Debenhams, watch from Kenneth Cole at L Time Studio, hats from TopMan

With vintage settings, stark colors and enigmatic gestures, this photo shoot pays tribute to that glorious genre called film noir

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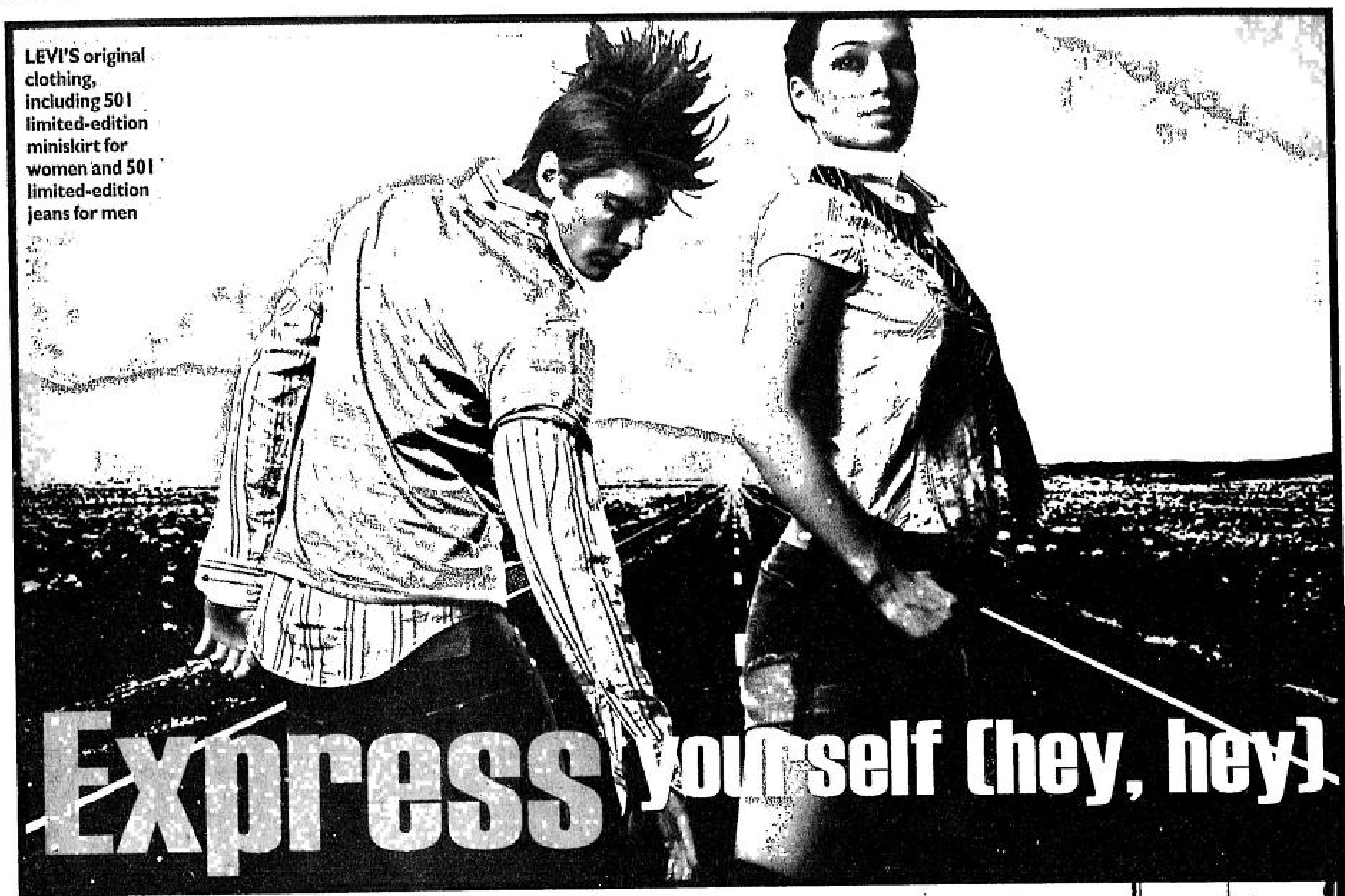


LEVI'S original clothing, including 501 limited-edition miniskirt for women and 501 limited-edition jeans for men

Express yourself (hey, hey)

To those who understand that fashion can be a means of communication, a way of getting your message across, I say go ahead and make a statement!

LEVI'S 501 limited-edition jean wear: capri jeans and t-shirt for women

APPLES' PICKINGS

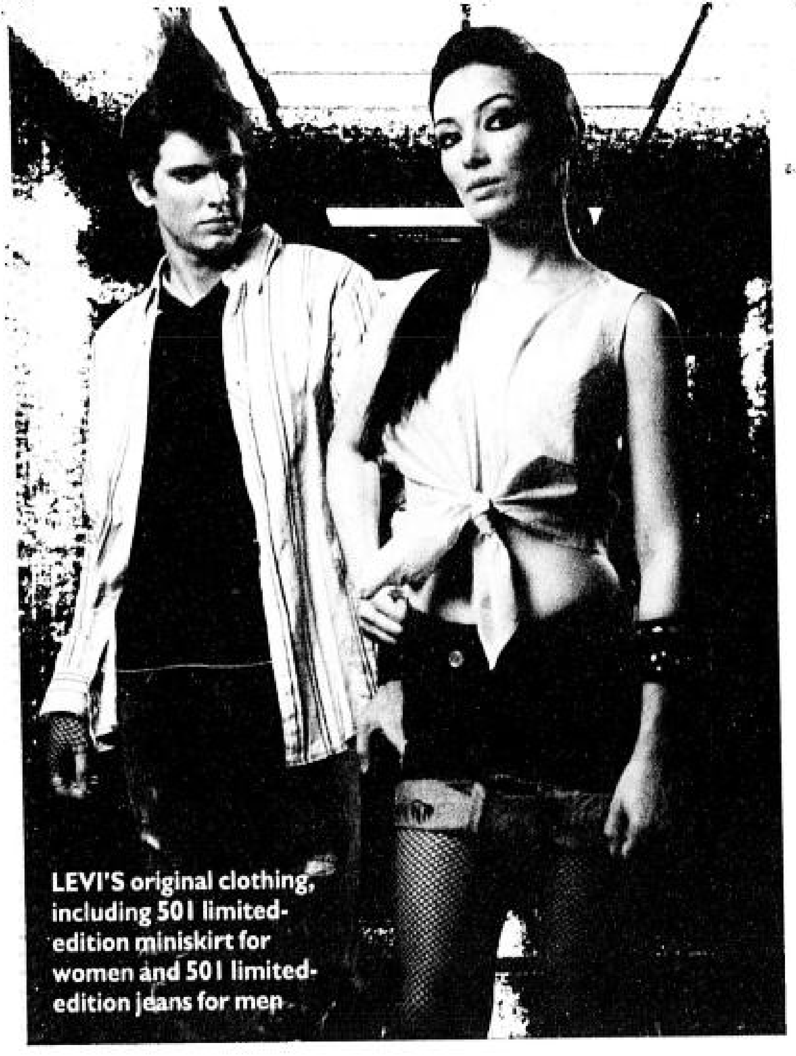
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FASHION IS DEFINITELY A means of expressing yourself and your innermost thoughts.

Teenagers have been known to don all sorts of articles of clothing as a form of rebellion against over-protective parents. In high school, I used to wear leather and chains for a bit of shock factor. And now, my teenage daughter paints her nails black for a Goth feel and wears micro minis that make her dad's heart palpitate with worry.

Activists have worn statement tees that reflect less-than-ideal political times. Remember those "Ninoy" yellow shirts and the more recent black tops worn by the likes of Dinky Soliman and company?

In any case, proverbial fashionistas are also expressing their need to stand out (or should I say belong?) by investing in ultra-stylish items like the latest Fendi Spy Bag or YSL Muse. Heck, even star-struck fans have conveyed their loyalties via "team Jen" and "team Angelina" shirts.



LEVI'S original clothing, including 501 limited-edition miniskirt for women and 501 limited-edition jeans for men

LEVI'S 501 limited-edition jean wear: Jeans and T-shirt for men

Now more than ever, fashion is a way of accepting, expressing and staying true to your self—flaws and assets, included.

Levi's understands this very well, and this is why it has launched the 501 Stay True campaign, which aims to serve as a canvas of intimate truths about the 501 wearer and jean.

Latching on to the dressing-as-personal-statement craze, Levi's' latest salvo includes empowering and thought-provoking taglines such as "I Am Not My Father's Second Chance," "You Like To Give Advice, I Like To Ignore It," and "You'll Never Really Know Me Until You Know What Turns Me On."

To complement its Stay True campaign and to mark 501 day, the jeans brand, which has been in existence for more than 130 years, has also customized the iconic 501 jeans. True-blue fans will be happy to note that there are limited-edition jeans with genuine leather patches on the back waist, similar to what was used on the 501 jeans before the 1960s. For a further touch of exclusivity, a serial number handwritten in waterproof ink runs along the inside of the waistband.

Some people say fashion is just fashion and nothing else. Well, for the most part, it's really just something to enjoy.

But ultimately, it should make you feel better about yourself. And to those who understand that it can also be a means of communication, a way of getting your message across, I say go ahead and make a statement!

Email the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

LEVI'S original clothing, including 501 limited-edition capris for women and 501 limited-edition jeans and shirt for men

TO CELEBRATE INDIVIDUALITY,
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AND IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE IN DAVAO,
HEAD TO THE VENUE AND ROCK
WITH TABULARASA, MACKINA, GO LARRY GO,
AND SUGARFREE.
ON MAY 6, LEVI'S 501 BRINGS FASPITCH, POWERSPOONZ,
SMOOTH FRICTION, SHEILA AND THE INSECTS,
AND PUPIL AT OFFROADS CEBU,
WHILE SM BAGUIO COMES ALIVE WITH MENAYA
AND SPONGECOLA.

Travelin' man

Preparing for a trip does not have to be stressful. Remember, planning is key. Bon voyage!

Text by Gem Padilla
Contributor
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

SOCKS! SHOES! Toiletries! Clothes! Hair dryer! Golf clubs! Medicine cabinet! Kitchen sink! (Okay, that's a bit too much.)

Packing at the last minute is a disaster waiting to happen, with you ending up dumping everything into your luggage, squeezing them in and hoping they fit.

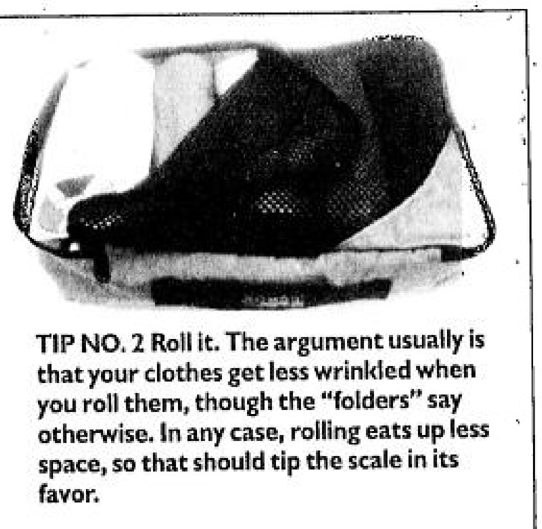
It doesn't take a PhD to pack properly for a trip. And before you pooh-pooh the idea, think of how much better you'll feel not having to worry whether you packed your medication or that blue shirt that goes with your favorite shoes just before you get on the plane.

As with almost anything, packing well gets easier with practice. Here are a few things you should remember:

- Make a travel checklist. It curbs the tendency to overpack, forget or double certain items.
- Bag the right bag. Choose a bag size that corresponds with the length of your stay. Like Goldilocks, it has to be just right. Both overpacking and underpacking causes wrinkling. Underpacking allows the clothes to move around and overpacking squishes the clothes. Remember: pack tight and light.
- Think modular, aka packing cubes. This is the latest development in packing technology. Basically, this means packing your clothes in smaller bags or modules that can easily be rearranged and interchanged inside your main bag. This provides an efficient way to get neat and organized and remain so as you travel. No more rummaging!
- Pack in order. As much as possible, arrange the contents of your bag according to order of use, with the items you need to use soonest packed last. If you can't, isn't it great you're using those cubes?
- Don't skimp on the essentials. When getting your travel gear together, high price tags do not necessarily mean high quality, but the cheapies are the ones to watch out for. It would be tragic if your kits and luggage get to the end of the road just when you've begun to hit it. Take note of small things like zippers and such (they usually end up causing the biggest headaches or holes in your pocket when you're forced to buy impromptu replacements).

Check out our featured brand, Nomad Adventure Gear. This locally produced brand's Go-Pack line includes garment cubes in three sizes, folders with folding guides for hassle-free folding and packing, and a wide assortment of kits for travel and sports. Limited styles available in Make Room. Call 0917-8953279 or visit www.proprius-ph.com

TIP NO. 1 Think small. Use small containers of shampoo, lotion, etc. for your toiletry kit. No need to lug around a big tube of toothpaste if you're only going away for a week.



TIP NO. 2 Roll it. The argument usually is that your clothes get less wrinkled when you roll them, though the "folders" say otherwise. In any case, rolling eats up less space, so that should tip the scale in its favor.

TIP NO. 3 Leak-proof. Pack anything that might leak or break in a small plastic bag (zip lock) or a sturdier plastic container (better yet, zip lock then a plastic container). Make sure your bottles are not completely full, since leaving some air space in the container may help with air-pressure change.

Dressed to kill

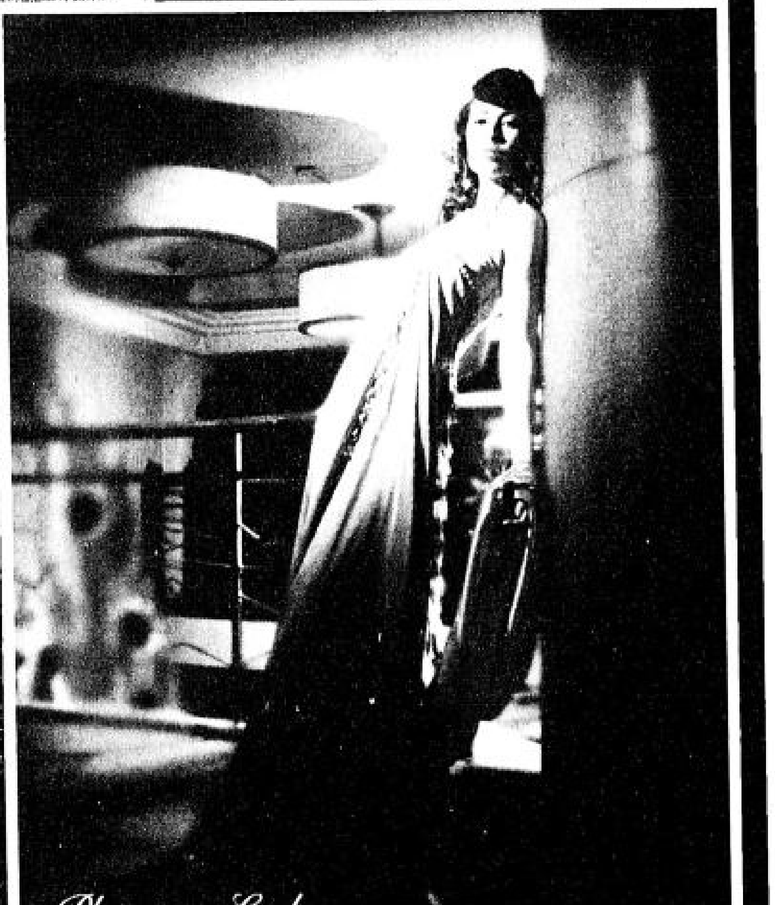
Femme Fatale
(from left) On Peter: White jacket with floral shirt and pants by M Barretto. On Teresa: Strap long gown with strips of georgette stitched on tulle over jackard polyester fabric by Julius Tarog, pillbox hat with crinoline ribbons by Mich Dulce, gold watch from Fossil at L Time Studio, shoes from Label at XY Shop. On Henrique: Sharkskin linen peak lapel jacket and pants by Anthony Nocom for SM Department Store, inner shirt from Debenhams

From page D1

were dark, earthy types led by the likes of Rita Hayworth, Barbara Stanwyck, Gloria Swanson, William Holden, Orson Welles and Humphrey Bogart.

Noir's protagonists are almost always cynical, vulnerable and insecure loners who are doomed and trapped, yet seek to find a way out of a tortuous labyrinth of unpleasantness, violence and evil. So try as they might, not even the best directors and stylists would have been able to transform Hepburn and company into such shaded types.

"His fate is often sealed by his dark passion and the treachery of a femme fatale," wrote Ellis. "The characters are antisocial in their greed and selfishness, driven to betrayal, violence and crime. The world they inhabit is a dark one, literally and morally."



Phantom Lady
Tent Vietnam silk gown with an illusion tulle top with gold details by Jun Escario, gold shawl made of jackard polyester fabric by Julius Tarog, small crumpled hat by Mich Dulce, gold shoes from Nine West

Kiss Me Deadly
On Peter: Jacket, striped shirt and pants by M Barretto. On Teresa: '50s-inspired hourglass dress by Brian Leyva, wristbag from Topshop. On Henrique (partly hidden): Black/white double-breasted jacket and pants by Anthony Nocom for SM, hat from TopMan

Night scenes

As far as backdrops went, these films (which had their heyday during the 1940s and 1950s) employed mostly night scenes, seedy furnished elements and rain-washed streets in big cities. The latter scene, however, should never be confused with "Singing in the Rain."

"The screens are filled with swirling cigarette smoke (back when no "no smoking" signs existed), glaring lights and harsh shadows," said Ellis. "Through oblique camera angles and tension in the editing, a jungle atmosphere is created with predators stalking prey and danger lurking in the shadows, intermittently revealed by flashing electric signs."

With film noir as our inspiration, INQUIRER Lifestyle Fashion mounts a photo shoot that pays tribute to this murky, tension-filled genre. The fashion and styling (full, red lips and big, curly tresses) are of the period, as are the characters (enigmatic stares and sweeping gestures) and the storyline: two-timing tease causes the jealous husband and the reckless lover to come to blows.

Even the location, shot within the Art Deco confines of the Miramar Hotel on Roxas Boulevard,' harks back to a mysterious and bygone era. To keep the mood as pronounced as possible, we drained the colors out of the clothes by limiting the shades to black and white (*see related fashion tips*).

The underlying tension and contrast are kept palpable via vivid colors found on certain objects and body parts such as a vintage lift, certain jewelry pieces and the femme fatale's scarlet mouth, which, in the final analysis, seems to be ordering her lover, without moving a lip, to "kiss me deadly."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Black and white heat

THE BLACK AND WHITE look makes for a dramatic contrast, but don't take it too seriously. Otherwise, you'd end up looking like a domino.

"If you feel like wearing black and white then go for it," says fashion designer Julius Tarog. "But if you find yourself surrounded by dominoes and you're mistaken for one, then you most likely overdid it."

Instead of going for balance, says fellow designer Brian Leyva, aim for harmony and contrast. Your outfit should either be predominantly black or white. In other words, go for a ratio of 70:30 and never 50:50.

"The accessories' colors will determine what occasion the black and white dress is appropriate for," says Leyva. "Rather than limit your accessories to black and white, you can wear pieces in strong colors such as magenta, violet, emerald green, topaz and ruby."

Unless it's a theme party, says designer Jun Escario, there's no need to wear matching black and white pieces—down to the spectator shoes for women, or the white hanky on the chest for men.

"Such a combination can either make or break an outfit," Escario adds. "If you go for bold geometric prints in black and white, you better make sure that the outfit is properly cut and fits snugly on the body. Otherwise, a dress with a loose bodice can overpower the wearer's figure."

Black-and-white sleeveless tops and cocktail dresses can easily be worn to parties with nude, gold or silver sandals, says Escario. Pinstripe tops also look great with a pair of jeans or slim pants.

Men should skip the fedora hat, too, says men's wear designer Anthony Nocom. Unless you want to look like a character straight out of those gangster movies, leave the lapel free of any large carnation as well.

"It's never inappropriate for a banker or businessman to wear a black and white pinstripe suit," says Nocom, "as long as it's properly tailored and careful attention was given to fit and materials."

Wearing black stockings with white shoes is a big no-no, Nocom cautions. Any woman who insists on combining the two items should have her head examined. Wearing a black-and-white belt with a black-and-white outfit is the fashion equivalent of a broken record.

M. Barretto, men's wear designer of Folded & Hung, believes it's a lot easier to get away with either an all-black or all-white outfit. But if you insist on combining the two, you better carry them with plenty of attitude.

"Black suggests elegance, authority and power," says Barretto. "So it's best to go for black during formal occasions and high-level business meetings. When worn with white, black takes on a different meaning as it conveys neatness, simplicity and versatility."

Being non-colors, he adds, the black-and-white combination takes on a new twist with the right accessories. Fashion-forward men can add some spunk to their outfits with a colorful hat or tie.

"A black and white outfit is like an empty canvas waiting for that splash of color," he says. "Anything goes."

Whether you're a man or a woman, one rule of thumb applies: It's best not to think in black and white when you go for such a dramatic combination.

Alex Y. Vergara

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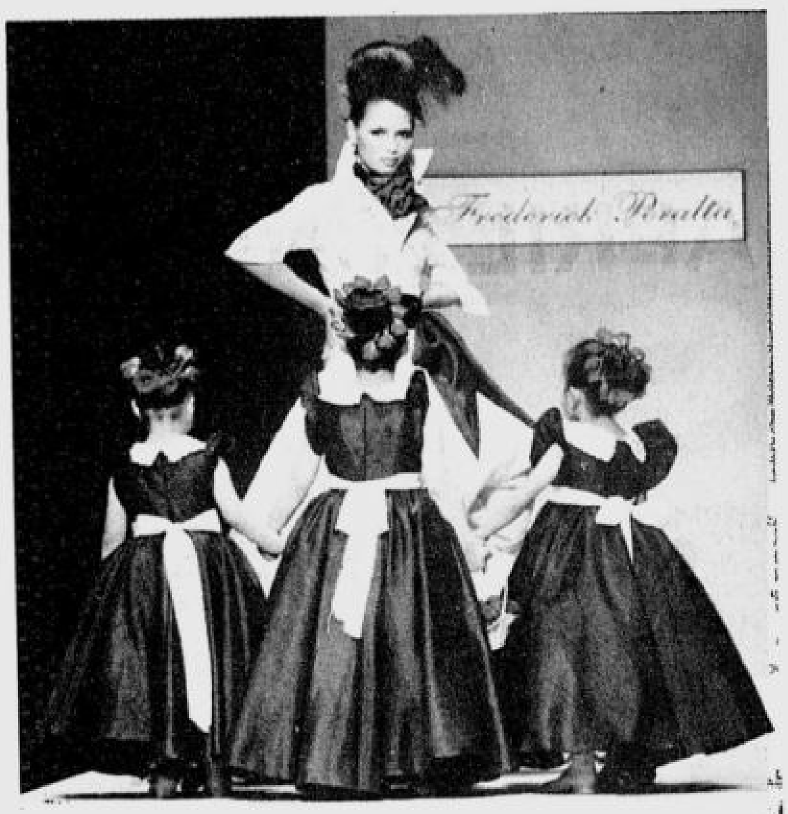
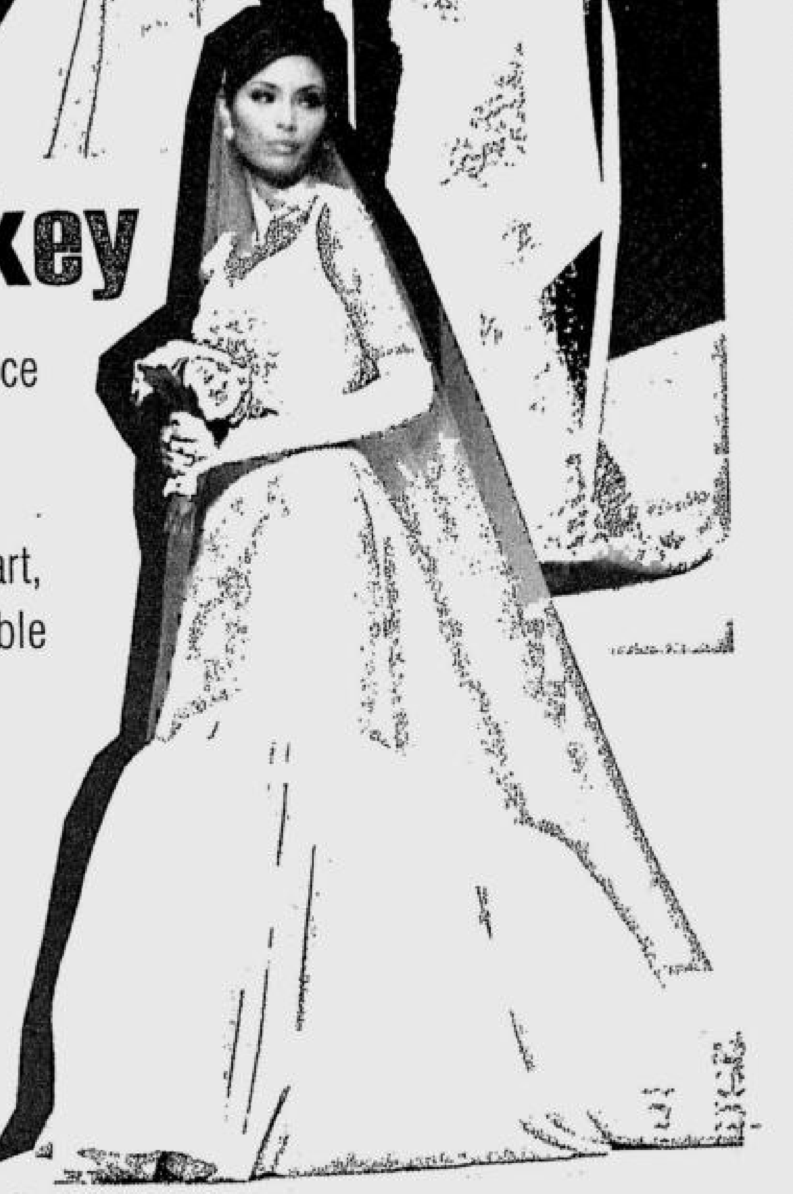




Drama in a minor key

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

Frederick Peralta's 30-piece bridal collection for Philippine Fashion Week 2006 was, for the most part, muted, simple and wearable

WHEN A FASHION designer is best known for his proclivity for theatrical designs, it's only prudent to take with a grain of salt his assertion that the collection he's about to show is "all wearable."

Which is exactly what we did when Frederick Peralta told us that a few days before he presented his 30-piece bridal collection at Philippine Fashion Week 2006.

In fairness to Peralta, he made good with his promise, even as we feared he'd prove us right when his first model, veteran Marina Benipayo, came out half concealed in a big fan of plumes. She was wearing a halter-neck column with a satin train attached to the Empire waist. The bodice and skirt were heavily sequined and beaded, but were nevertheless easy and wearable.

Peralta's inspirations for his 20 bridal dresses run the gamut from the kimono, the Maria Clara and the Victorian era to the *tired* and tested bustier-cum-ball skirt.

He used textured fabrics for otherwise simple columns or combined them with satins. A two-piece dress with kimono sleeves was made entirely of heavy lace, tied with a satin sash. He used the same materials for a halter dress with a big bow at the neck and waist.

For the conservative bride, he had a cream scallop-hemmed dress with a big-collared Maria Clara bolero. Another was a ruffle-edged three-quarter-sleeved dress with a gathered skirt. Two serpentine gowns had minimal embellishments on the bodices, but with big ruffled hems. No new ideas here, but Peralta had an appreciative audience.

Peralta sent out Joann Bitagcol in a high-collared ruffled Victorian piece, accented with a bow of black-and-white stripes and polka dots and red satin around the neck and cuffs. Pity the bride who'll wear that in the sweltering Manila weather.

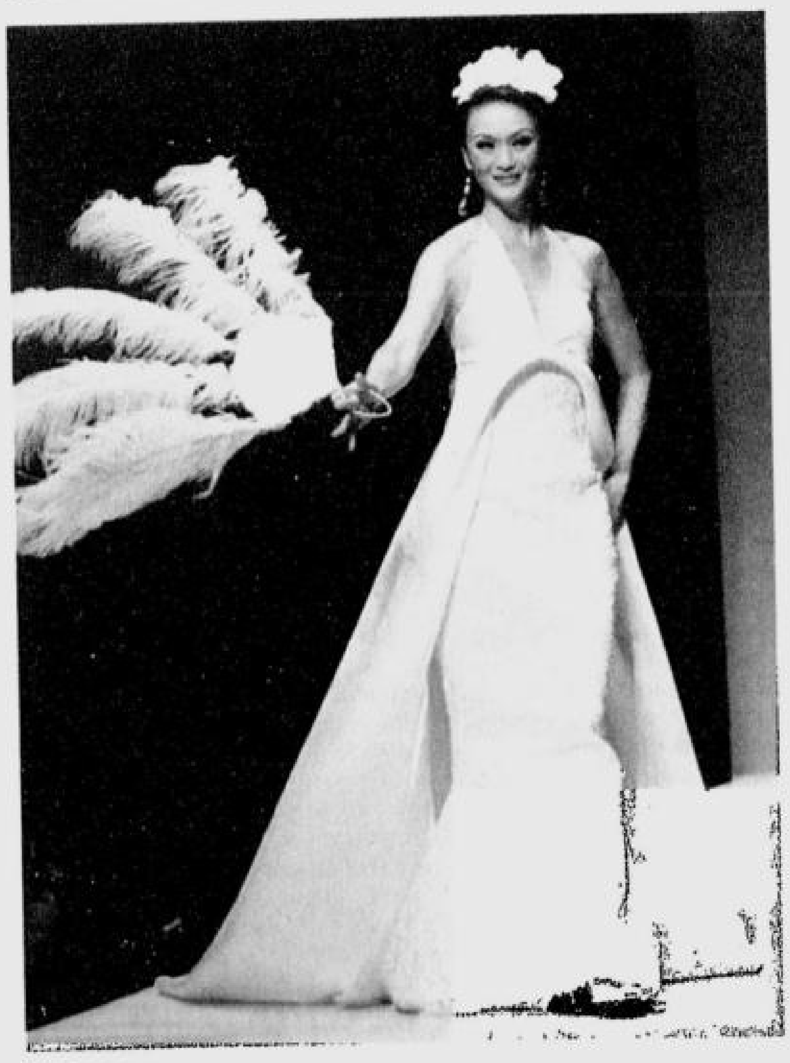
Of course, even as the designer's clothes were, by and large, wearable, and his propensity for excessive embellishment decidedly tempered, it wouldn't be a Peralta show without some doses of his signature dramatics.

One was a big tulle skirt accented with plumes with a peek-a-boo top of sewn-together floral appliqués. It had a feather headpiece.

Ria Bolivar wore lace-up black thigh-high boots with her black satin-belted dress, and had an entourage of three little girls in black dresses. Another model was dressed like a forest nymph with volumes of diaphanous fabric asymmetrically layered from the left shoulder down to the skirt. A serpentine dress was of a multicolor, floral-print fabric, with a hem of layered violet-and-lilac tulle and sky-blue veil.

In an apparent Ennis-and-Jack hangover, Peralta also sent down two sets of groom-and-groom couples on the runway. Not quite original, though the audience liked it, even as the hapless male models seemed awkward, stiff and unenthusiastic for the 15-30 seconds they walked down the ramp. Couldn't they have hammed it? After all, modeling is part acting.

Maybe next time Peralta should hire real actors.



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Contributing Editor Ria Francisco-Prieto

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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Smart genuine

BEAUTY

Hot beauty booty

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

AS SOON AS I GET UP EVERY morning, I am reminded it's summer. I wake up because the air-conditioner can't seem to beat the heat, though I still opt to have breakfast in the room because I know it's warmer if I step out.

I don't even have to use hot water when I shower these days, because water during summer is always warm. The worst is when I step out of the shower. I start to sweat and feel like I need to bathe again.

Now I understand why some people have air-con in their restrooms. Come to think of it, I probably should add that to my never-ending wish list. The thought of it makes me happy.

I think that like Christmas, summer is mainly for kids. I recently went to the club where I now try to swim and it was full of energy. Little people (and I mean kids) learning how to swim, some just running around playing with their friends and others even trying to fly kites. I remembered being a kid and loving summer. I figured we adults should at least treat ourselves with a month's break once a year.

Why should kids be the only ones allowed to have fun and not have to think of anything for a whole month? Besides, we adults do have some paid leaves we are also entitled to.

Now I know what I'm going to do tomorrow. I will march to the human resources department and educate myself on how much leaves I can take—paid, of course. Since if I don't have cash to spare for my break, that won't be fun, either.

Speaking of cash, a lot of people are feeling the beauty cash drain. I

HOT/ E2

Beauty Shout Out: On the beach, instead of spraying on fragrance that could have a chemical reaction when exposed to the sun, I slather on my fav body oil with a light sesame scent. The slick glow can enhance your tan, too. —Myrza Sison (Marie Claire magazine editor in chief)

Before you find the right man
you have to kiss a lot of frogs.
Same with cosmetics

Not all hair straightening salons are the same

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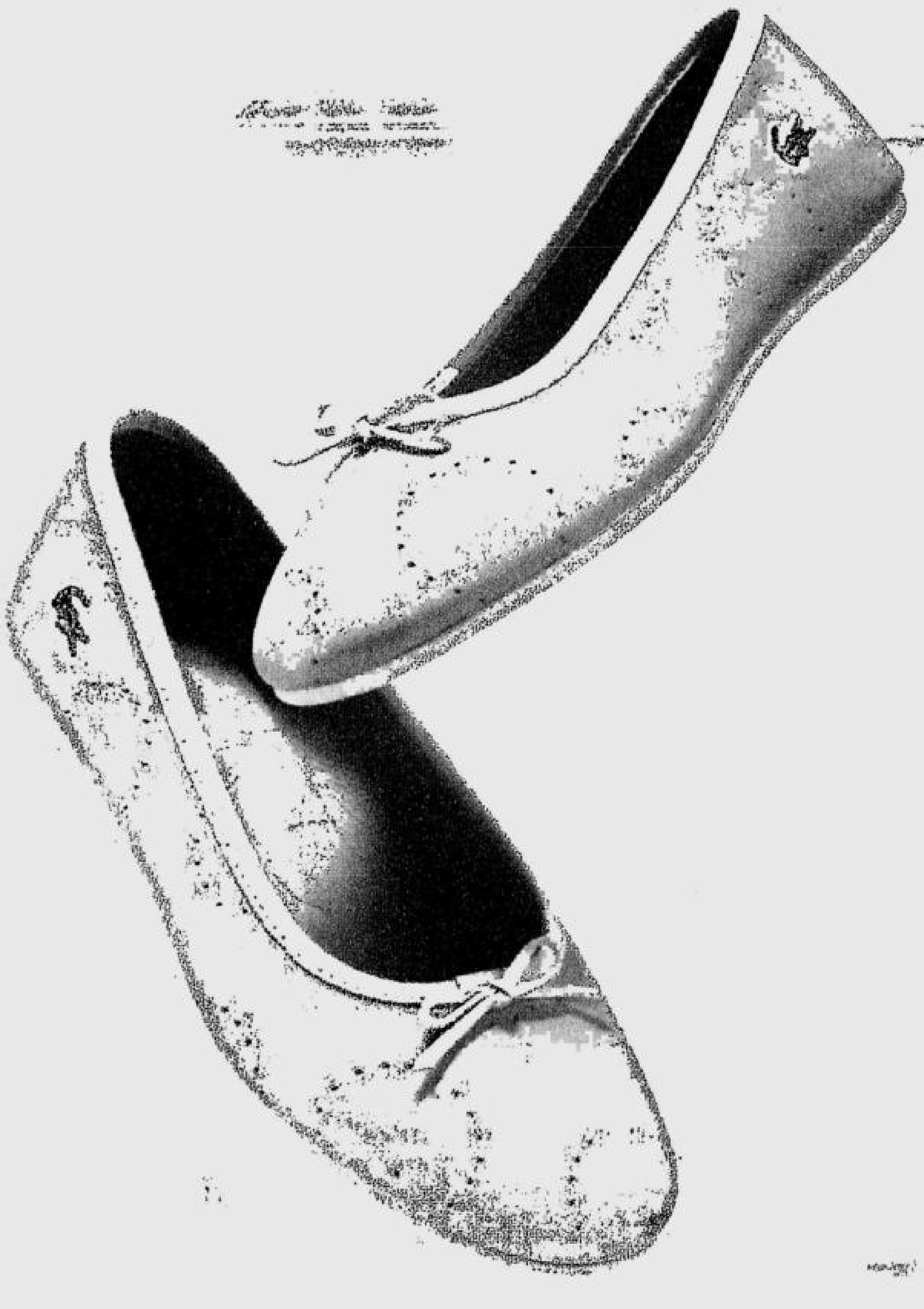
freshaire
the original hair straightening specialist



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Hot beauty booty

From page E1

am lucky I get to sample a lot of free stuff so I don't really spend as much for beauty products than the average girl. Don't worry, though, I'm sure most of you are earning more than I do. So everything's quits.

Sometimes, though, the products I get I really don't get to write about mainly because when I test them, I find that some don't deliver on what they promise. Most of the products I get I give to my friends, and they're the ones who road-test my beauty loot for me.

Truth is, it takes time to find the product that feels like it was made just for you. My analogy is, before you find the right man you have to kiss a lot of frogs. Same with beauty products.

So when you find one, you better pray they don't phase it out (like my love affair with The Body Shop's Dew Berry perfume oil). I love checking out counters, though, and discovering old and new things. I like what I do because I feel like a detective, trying to find the best that is out there.

marie claire
PLUS! Our Beauty Experts' Top Pick
WHEN MOM DRIVES YO
CRAZY
The Town W
Parents W
Gay Sons
fashion flair

Best buys

Marie Claire Philippines recently held its first-ever Prix d'Excellence de la Beaute Awards Night in Le Soufflè in the Rockwell club. I felt like it was the Grammy awards for beauty products.

The citations are given yearly to the best beauty products in the world. This year, an international panel of beauty professionals chose eight products, while the Manila panel chose one. The eight were: Liquid Bronze by Clarins, Rouge Pure Shine by Yves Saint Laurent, KissKiss by Guerlain, Sensitive by Nivea Visage, Plateneum by Lancôme, Dream Matte Mousse by Maybelline, Volume Shocking by L'Oreal Paris, and Eluage by Avene.

The Philippine jury, made up of journalists and beauty, aesthetics and cosmetology professionals, included makeup artist Lala Flores, Philippine Board of Diplomate and Philippine Dermatological Society fellow Maria Lourdes Anna Nebrida, Cosmopolitan beauty editor Mariel Chua, Preview beauty editor Agoo Bengzon, Good Housekeeping fashion and beauty editor Myra Puyat-Santiago and Marie Claire beauty, health and fitness editor Marie Calica. Their choice was Bobbi Brown's Shimmer Brick Compact.

I love it when people make the search for the best easier for every beauty consumer, and this award did just that. Of course what the experts recommend will not always be the right one for you because we all have different skin types and preferences, but you now have an idea what you should check out in counters.

My day is set for tomorrow. First, a visit to the HR department, then I will get myself a copy of the May issue of Marie Claire to find out more about the products, then go to the mall to try them all. Now, that's fun!

MARIE Claire beauty, health and fitness editor Marie Calica and Marie Claire editor in chief Myrza Sison, in Michi Calica creations

---

MANY PEOPLE WANT THE instant and dramatic results of liposuction but without its invasive nature.

They will be thrilled to know that there is another way, and this one without the need for drastic dieting and exercise. What it all boils down to, really, is whether you have the budget for it. The program is effective but it carries a big price tag.

I'm sure a lot of you have heard of Marie France's weight-loss treatment and have been curious to try it. I did it for you!

First, I had to go through consultation and measurements. I went there the week before my period, which meant I was carrying my usual three pounds of excess water weight. I was still in the low middle range weight-wise, but my aim was to be on the low side, which would be eight to 11 pounds less.

Marie France's aim for me was more along the lines of inch loss and sculpting, because my problem areas were the lower abdominals (*puson*), hips, buttocks and upper thighs.

I was told to come back every other day or three times a week, except for the week of my period.

My program

Step 1: Endermologie, 25 minutes. You will be asked to strip down to your undies, and then outfitted in a body stocking. The rolling and pinching motion of the accompanying machine serves to break down the fat located in different skin layers and reduce water retention, thus resulting to spot reducing and inch loss.

Most clients start at Level 4 from a scale of 1-9, but I requested for 5 right away. On minor problem areas like my arms, upper abdominals, legs and waist, there was little to no discomfort. However, when the attendant reached my lower hips and buttocks, it felt like a hundred tiny cannibals were pinching pieces off me.

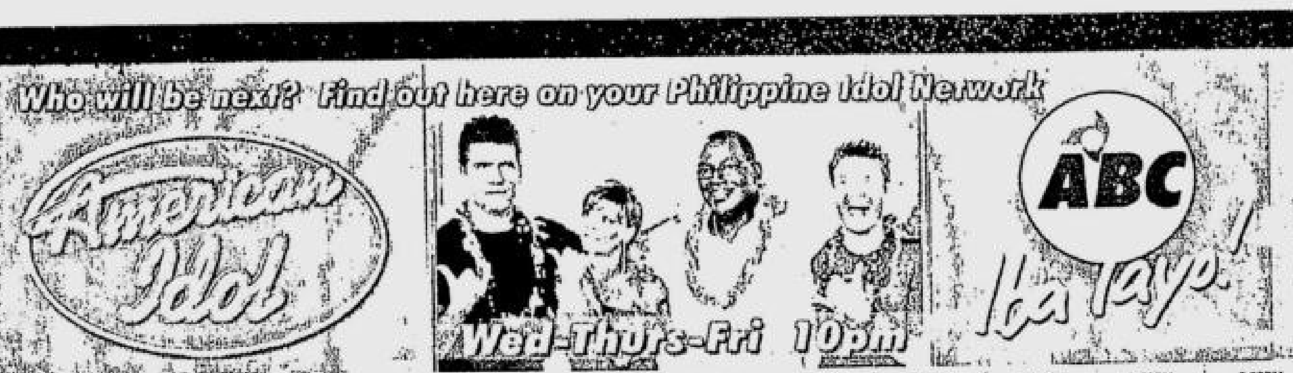
Apparently, the water retention and excess fat make the process uncomfortable, that's why overweight people can only take Level 4 for a start.

Results: The area that responded the fastest to the treatment was my upper body. I loved the fact that my bra-line rolls were gone in three sessions, my upper arms became fat-free and my abdominals were flattened out. The unwanted bumps on my hips were also smoothened out, leaving only a perfect curve.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Friday, May [illegible] 2006


Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network
American Idol
Wed-Thurs-Fri 10pm
ABC
Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Something About Miriam		Real Stories	Insider
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding Twins	TV Patrol World		Pinoy Big Brother	Gulong Ng Palad	Sa Piling Mo	Panday	Wonderful Life	Gudtaym			Hart's War
AXN		When Animals Attack		Sports Disaster VI		Fear Factor (Season V)		The 4400		PSI Factor (Season III)		The Making Of Mission Impossible III	E Buzz	The 6th Day					
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Codename Kids Next Door	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Power Rangers Wild Force	PokeMon	Yu-Gi-Oh Double Duel		The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinemax	The Outlaw Josey Wales (2:40 PM)			Paradise Hawaiian Style			Dead Canaries (5:35 PM)			The Big Red One				The Hunted (9:50 PM)			Devour (11:40PM)		
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Surface		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Takedown	Law & Order		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order Criminal Content		Crossing Jordan	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/[illegible] Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven That's So Trendy Week	Wonderful World Of Disney			Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN														Sportscenter Asia	Major League Baseball Thurs. Yankees @ Devil Rays				
ETC		American Dreams 3		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia		American Dreams 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code The Natural Law	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life In Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas In Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Snow White Sweet Love		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Majika	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon	Jewel In The Palace		Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		Mcleod's Daughters IV						Bewitched	The Nanny	Family Law III				Hustle					Hustle (11:45PM)
HBO	A Smile Like Yours (2:45 PM)				Wilder Days			Hurricane Smith			Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed			Gremlins 2: The New Batch			Radio (10:45PM)		
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Combattler V	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Gundam Seed
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Japan Video Topics		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		PTA Best Of The Philippines		Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac W Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Interiors By Design	Decorating Style	Decorating Cents	Food Network Special		Ming's Quest	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points		MTV Hits	Pop Inc.		2006 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Hits		Get Spotted	MTV Hits	MTV News	Buzzworthy	MTV Diyos		Boiling Points		VH1 Presents: Britney's Secret Childhood	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXILOG		Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp	Dipo Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Teledyaryo W/ Ray Langit & Angelique Lazo		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Buhay Kamao				Ambon Sa Pangi Ng Dagat				Nagmumurang Kamatis				Fight Night 7				Mahal Kita Final Answer
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zenki	Kaleido Star	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Magic Ring	Irene	Noel	Project 11	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene	Over The Green Fields
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN Aksyon News	Entertainment Tonight	Mission Impossible 3	WWE Smackdown		World Poker Tour		The Ultimate Fighter		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Quantum Global		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherds Voice		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports									Phil. Mtn Bik Pro Tour 2	Sagupaan	NBA Jam	2006 NBA Playoffs 1st Round					Solar Sports Desk	Table Tennis World Team C'ships	
Sports Plus		Shell Houston Open Highlights		World's Greatest Auto Shows		Aaron's 499 Highlights		World Game		Raceworld		Nopi Tunervision 10	Rookie Manual	BD Hawaiian Tropic	Wild Side	FIFA Preview Series 12	Golf Today	Inside the PGA	Wachovia C'ship Day1
Star Movies	The Good Shepherd (2:40 PM)			Fighting The Odds (4:15 PM)				Catch That Kid (5:50 PM)			The Librarian Quest For The Spear (7:25 PM)			Bang Julia			Out Of Time (10:45PM)		
Star World	8 Simple Rules/ Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Ed		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		The Collector		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23	Dance Idol	Masked Rider Ryuki				Batman Beyond	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights				News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

t's a wrap!

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

Get the body you want while relaxing with Marie France's Fat Mobilization System and related weight-loss treatments

Step 2: Physique inch-loss treatment, 20 minutes. This was my all-time favorite treatment. You lie down on a bed, and pads with cables are strapped to your problem areas. Electrocurrents are then applied to these areas. There is no pain at all, but you may feel weird that your muscles are twitching!

This short treatment is said to be equivalent to doing 225 sit-ups or abdominal work, squats, lunges and all-around arm exercises simultaneously! There is no way I can log that many hours in the gym, so it would literally take years for me to get these results if done the normal way.

I told my attendant to increase the frequency because this treatment was where I could see instant results. My buttocks were raised at least an inch within six sessions, and my thighs became firmer and more compact.

The last treatment on my program was Marie France's trademark cold wrap, aka Fat Mobilization System. Stretchy bandages soaked in a solution are wrapped around your body. The sensation is like being encased in wintergreen toothpaste splashed with ice cold water. This 25-minute treatment is a guaranteed 2,000-calorie burn, so the discomfort is worth it. Bring an iPod or mp3 player to while away the time.

Results: My clothes were looser after every treatment, and I noticed that whenever I ate afterwards, I burned the calories right away. In fact, the calorie burn continues about two hours after the wrap.

I could also see the muscle definition on my thighs, arms and buttocks. And I had a flab-free tummy.

Chosen areas

On the whole, the entire program will make you lose pounds and inches on chosen areas. Everything shrinks but the breast area.

My aesthetician/therapist was Lally, who has a great bedside manner and shows concern for her clients by asking every now and if there is any pain. She also explains the purpose of every procedure, so one is motivated to come back and even increase the discomfort tolerance for a more effective treatment.

Call Marie France at 8161262 or 8152052. Make sure you inquire about the prices first before committing to a program. Visit www.mariefrance.com.ph

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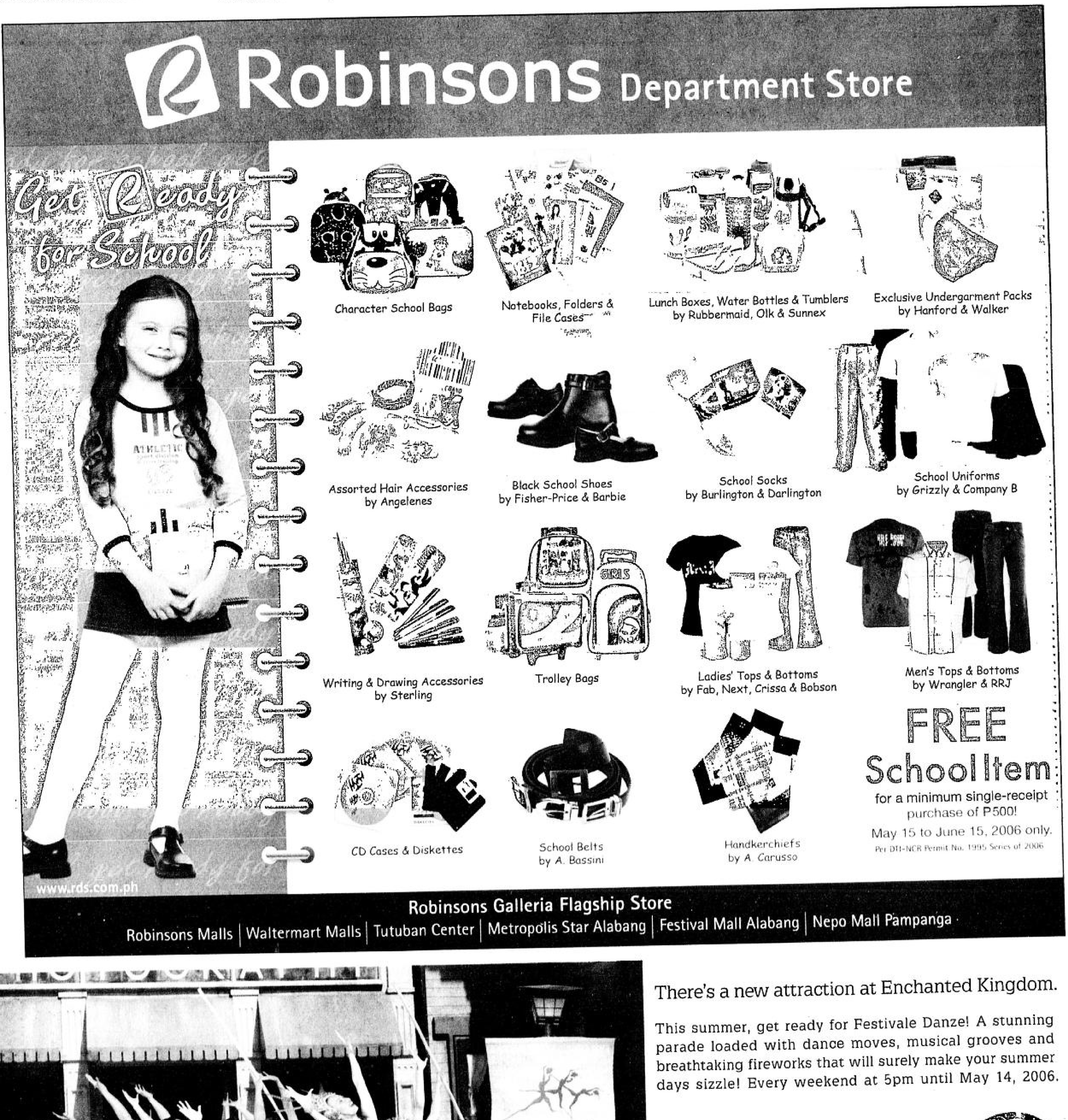

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festivale danze

There's a new attraction at Enchanted Kingdom.

This summer, get ready for Festivale Danze! A stunning parade loaded with dance moves, musical grooves and breathtaking fireworks that will surely make your summer days sizzle! Every weekend at 5pm until May 14, 2006.

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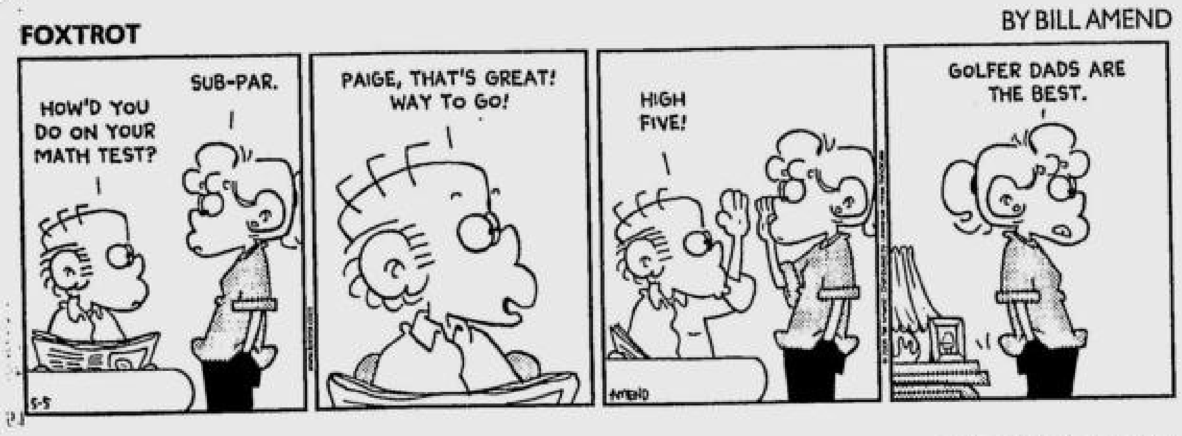
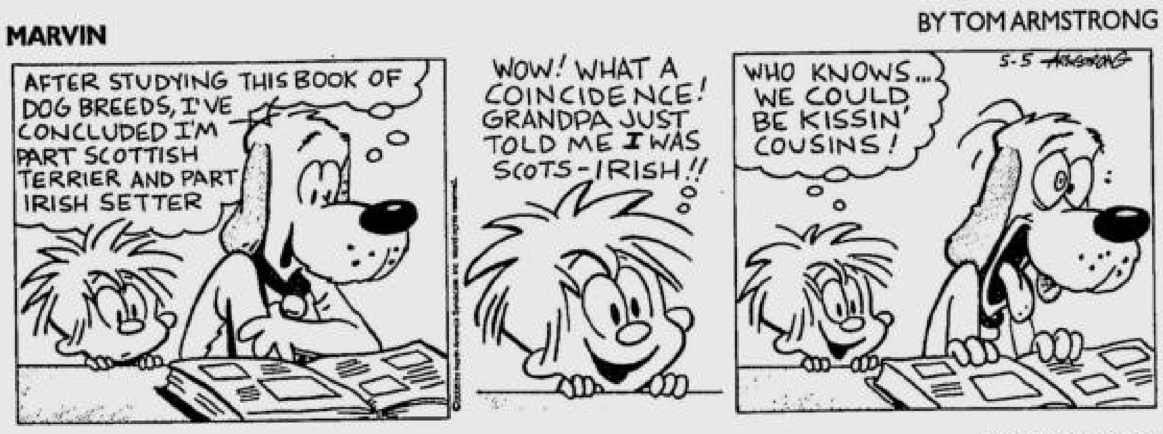
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HOW'D YOU DO ON YOUR MATH TEST?
SUB-PAR.
PAIGE, THAT'S GREAT! WAY TO GO!
HIGH FIVE!
GOLFER DADS ARE THE BEST.
5-5
AMEND

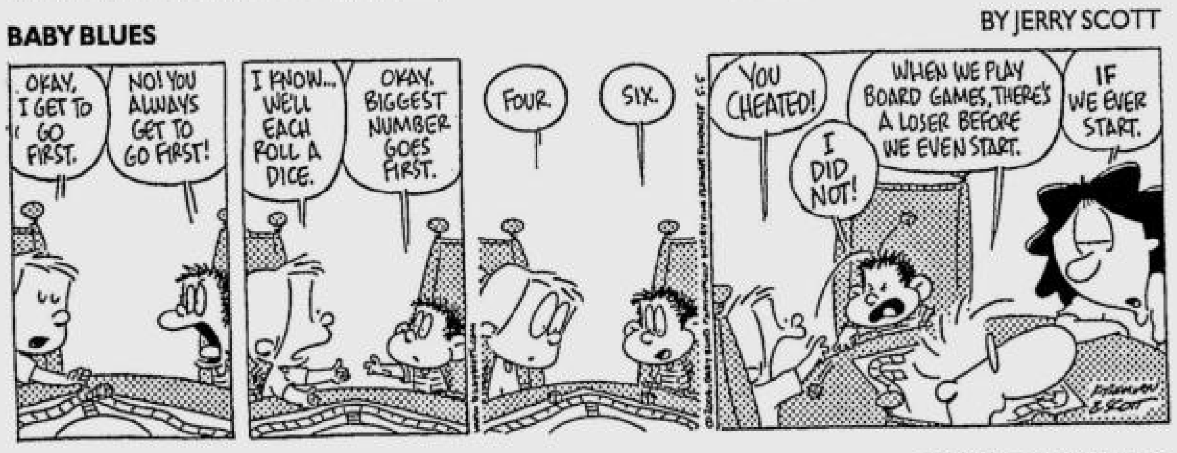
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


AFTER STUDYING THIS BOOK OF DOG BREEDS, I'VE CONCLUDED I'M PART SCOTTISH TERRIER AND PART IRISH SETTER
WOW! WHAT A COINCIDENCE! GRANDPA JUST TOLD ME I WAS SCOTS-IRISH!!
WHO KNOWS... WE COULD BE KISSIN' COUSINS!
5-5 ARMSTRONG

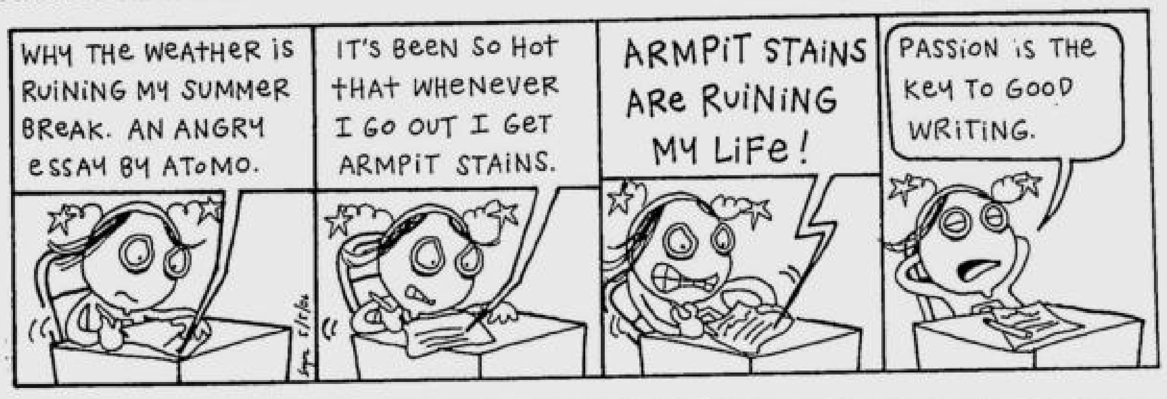
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY, I GET TO GO FIRST.
NO! YOU ALWAYS GET TO GO FIRST!
I KNOW... WE'LL EACH ROLL A DICE.
OKAY. BIGGEST NUMBER GOES FIRST.
FOUR.
SIX.
YOU CHEATED!
I DID NOT!
WHEN WE PLAY BOARD GAMES, THERE'S A LOSER BEFORE WE EVEN START.
IF WE EVER START.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHY THE WEATHER IS RUINING MY SUMMER BREAK. AN ANGRY ESSAY BY ATOMO.
IT'S BEEN SO HOT THAT WHENEVER I GO OUT I GET ARMPIT STAINS.
ARMPIT STAINS ARE RUINING MY LIFE!
PASSION IS THE KEY TO GOOD WRITING.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You value a job well done. Your willpower and determination guarantee this. You have a probing mind. You're mentally sharp; you pick up on things fast. You need material security. Beneath your mask of practicality, you're idealistic. Your need for family connections becomes stronger. This year you need to let something go to make room for something new.
Birthdate of: Michael Palin, comedic actor; John Rhys-Davies, actor; Ann B. Davis, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): In the next few weeks, your moneymaking ideas could be profitable! No doubt you will also have some very good money-spending ideas as well. Ka-ching!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Today Mercury moves into your sign, where it stays for the next two weeks. This is why you feel a strong urge to communicate to others now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your ability to do profitable, effective, productive research is wonderful now! You have the tenacity and the drive to look under every rock for answers that you need.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Your involvement with clubs, groups and organizations will be active in the next few weeks. Talk to acquaintances. Feedback from others will be helpful to you now.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You'll need extra patience when talking to authority figures, VIPs, teachers and parents in the next few weeks. Conversations can become competitive. Disagreements might arise.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Today Mercury moves into Taurus, which is your fellow Earth sign. Because of this, in the next two weeks all your communications with everyone will improve!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Dig right in and deal with research matters related to bills, taxes, inheritances, estates and insurance matters. You'll make great progress. You're in the groove!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today Mercury moves directly opposite your sign. You might feel that others are opposing you. Take a step back. This probably is not the case. Remain open-minded.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have a lot of energy now and in the next few weeks to get better organized at work. Put things in neat little piles. Get rid of junk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The next few weeks are an excellent time for teachers and people working with children. Everything connected to show business and the entertainment world will also go well. Communication improves all around.

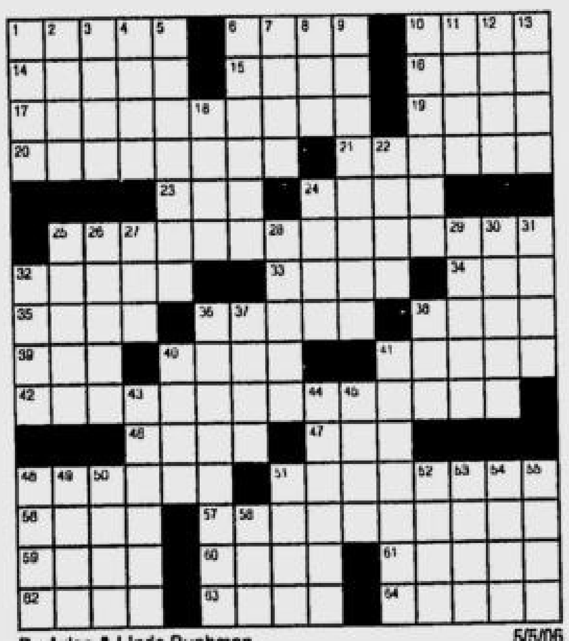
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Family discussions are important now. There's something you want to settle. Talk to parents and family members. Make sure to listen.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Errands, short trips and increased buying and selling keep you very busy in the next few weeks. You're in top form now. You're extremely persuasive!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 "Ninotchka" star
6 Berserk
10 "Ring of Fire" singer
14 Ta-ta, Gigi
15 Checkout delay
16 Shells and such
17 Bill
19 Sign on again
20 Coming into prominence
21 Waiting room
23 Numbskull
24 Unnerves
25 Bill
32 Leave-taking
33 Gymnast Korbut
34 Bus. honcho
35 Radius neighbor
36 Basil concoction
38 Month Leo begins
39 Record
40 John Wayne's nickname
41 No-no
42 Bill
46 Setback
47 Andean gold
48 Like Poe's midnight
51 Regular payments
56 Attain
57 Bill
59 Fictional Jane
60 Tampico water
61 Being dragged
62 Hey, you!
63 Am. Samoa
64 Speaks gratingly

DOWN
1 Rubberneck
2 West or Arkin
3 Ready for picking
4 Pub purchase
5 Alfalfa's group
6 "The Tempest" king
7 Chinese dynasty
8 Half and half?
9 Bogart/Bacall classic
10 Operatic tenor Enrico
11 The last word
12 Complacent
13 Crosby film foil
18 Vapor
22 Killer whale
24 Sudden shock
25 Crayon in
26 Shop talk
27 Balin or Claire
28 Edged (out)
29 Diving acronym
30 Subordinate to
31 Spinning toy
32 Swallow greedily
36 Mild-mannered person
37 Stretches (out)
38 Carrier from Tokyo
40 Portal
41 Potential full house
43 Krypton or Vulcan
44 Close by
45 View from Toledo
48 Low in pitch
49 Flat fish
50 Makes a mistake
51 Boot attachment
52 Sicilian hot spot
53 Zealous enthusiasts
54 Lot lapse
55 Puts in some stitches
58 Bring to maturity



By Arlan & Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL
5/5/06

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

M	A	S	H		C	R	I	M	E		A	R	E	A
A	R	C	O		Y	E	M	E	N		R	E	N	D
E	C	H	O		B	R	A	N	D		A	P	S	E
		I	F	Y	O	U	M	U	S	T	B	E	U	P
C	A	N		E	R	N	S			I	S	L	E	T
A	D	D	I	N	G			E	E	N				
S	I	L	O	S		E	A	R	L	Y	M	A	K	E
T	E	E	N		B	L	I	S	S		O	L	A	V
S	U	R	E	Y	O	U	R	E		N	A	I	R	A
				A	W	L			G	O	N	G	E	D
C	E	D	A	R			S	C	A	N		N	N	E
A	B	I	R	D	N	O	T	A	W	O	R	M		
R	O	T	S		A	B	A	C	K		B	E	S	T
O	N	T	O		N	I	C	H	E		I	N	T	O
L	Y	O	N		A	S	K	E	D		S	T	U	N

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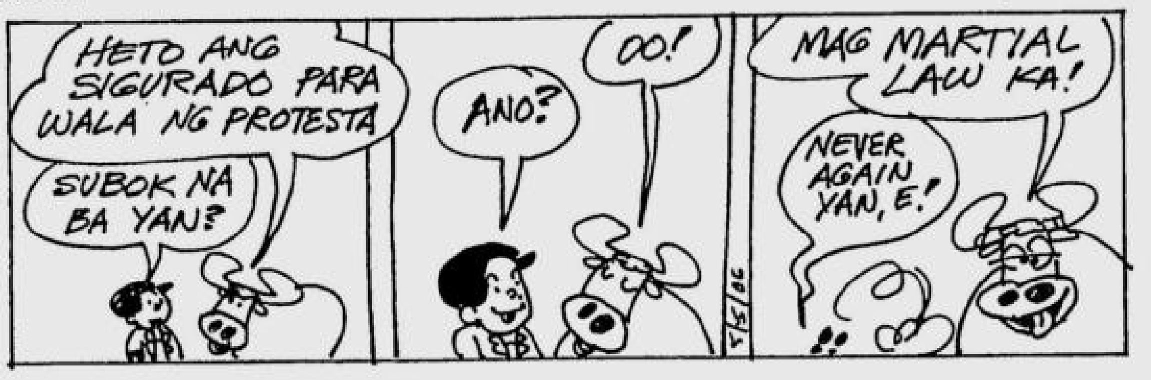
5/5/06

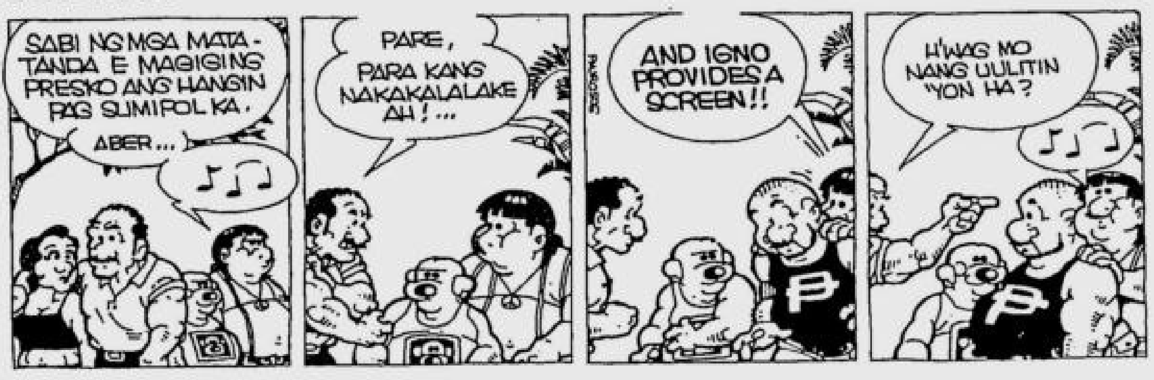
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HETO ANG SIGURADO PARA WALA NG PROTESTA
SUBOK NA BA YAN?
ANO?
OO!
MAG MARTIAL LAW KA!
NEVER AGAIN YAN, E!
5/5/06

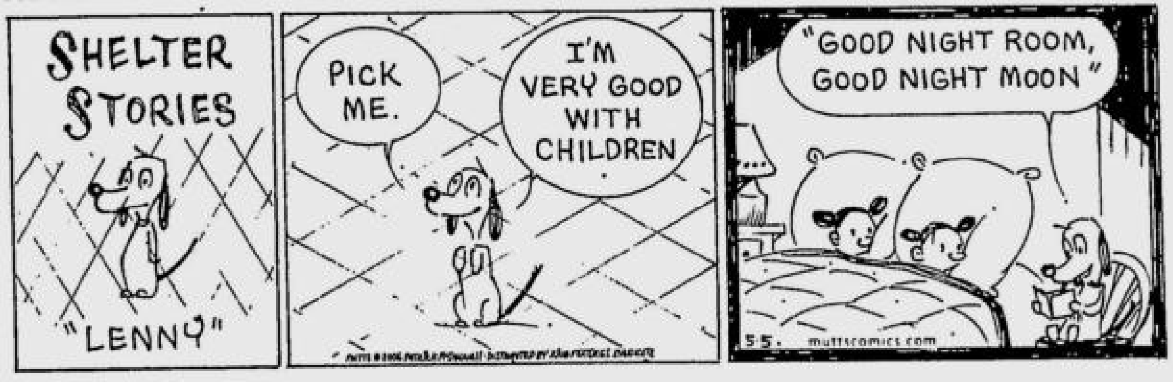
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SABI NG MGA MATATANDA E MAGIGING PRESKO ANG HANGIN PAG SUMIPOL KA.
ABER...
PARE, PARA KANG NAKAKALALAKE AH!...
AND IGNO PROVIDES A SCREEN!!
H'WAG MO NANG UULITIN 'YON HA?

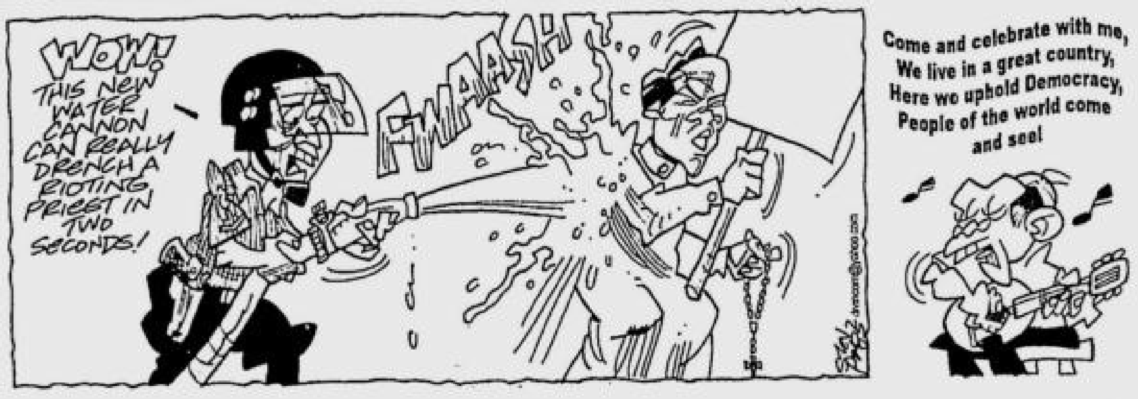
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
"LENNY"
PICK ME.
I'M VERY GOOD WITH CHILDREN
"GOOD NIGHT ROOM, GOOD NIGHT MOON"
5-5
muttscomics.com

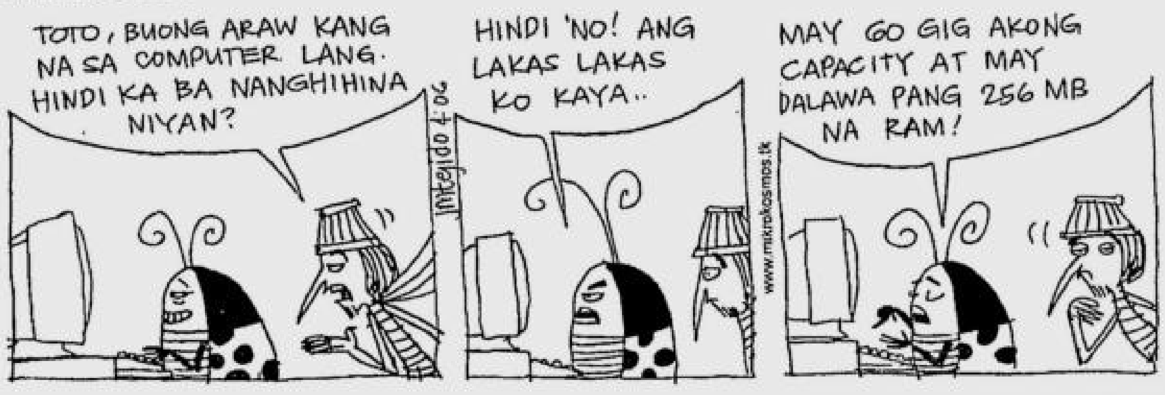
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WOW! THIS NEW WATER CANNON CAN REALLY DRENCH A RIOTING PRIEST IN TWO SECONDS!
FWAASH!
Come and celebrate with me,
We live in a great country,
Here we uphold Democracy,
People of the world come
and see!

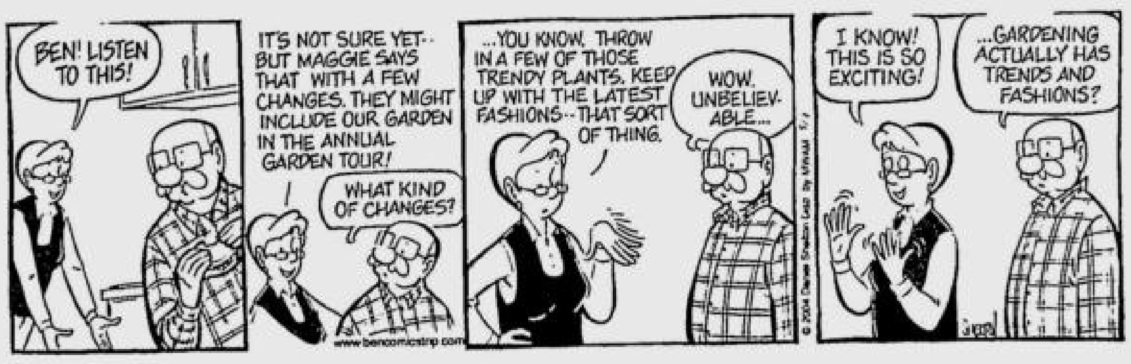
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TOTO, BUONG ARAW KANG NA SA COMPUTER LANG. HINDI KA BA NANGHIHINA NIYAN?
tejido 4.06
HINDI 'NO! ANG LAKAS LAKAS KO KAYA..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
MAY 60 GIG AKONG CAPACITY AT MAY DALAWA PANG 256 MB NA RAM!

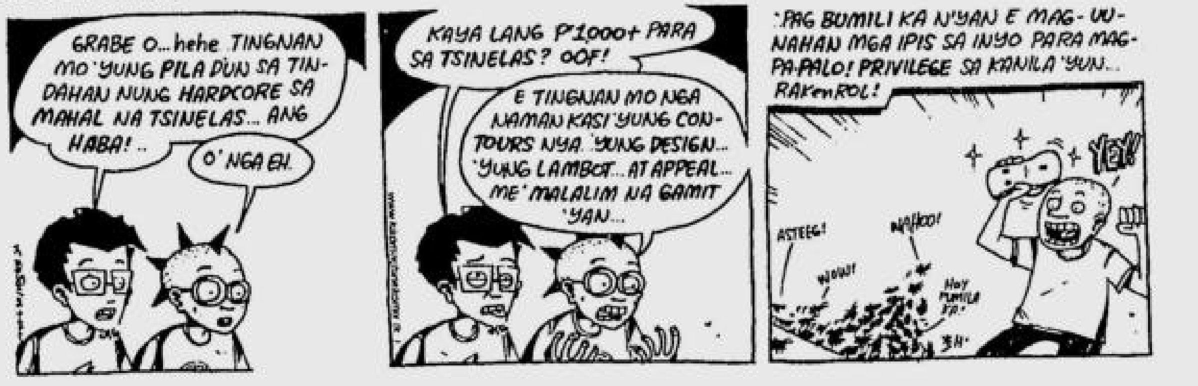
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN! LISTEN TO THIS!
IT'S NOT SURE YET-- BUT MAGGIE SAYS THAT WITH A FEW CHANGES, THEY MIGHT INCLUDE OUR GARDEN IN THE ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR!
WHAT KIND OF CHANGES?
...YOU KNOW, THROW IN A FEW OF THOSE TRENDY PLANTS. KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST FASHIONS-- THAT SORT OF THING.
WOW. UNBELIEVABLE...
I KNOW! THIS IS SO EXCITING!
...GARDENING ACTUALLY HAS TRENDS AND FASHIONS?
www.bencomicstrip.com

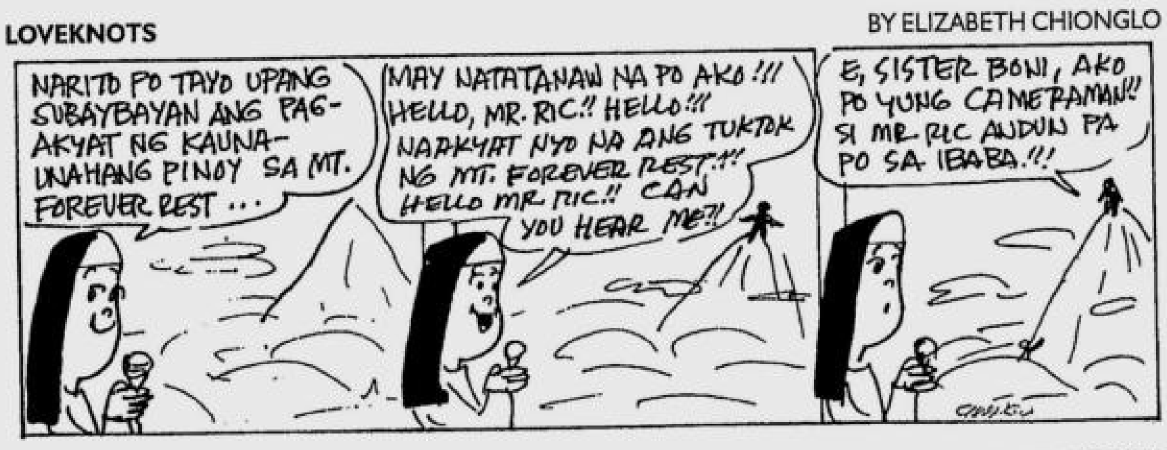
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE O...hehe TINGNAN MO 'YUNG PILA DUN SA TINDAHAN NUNG HARDCORE SA MAHAL NA TSINELAS... ANG HABA!..
O' NGA EH.
KAYA LANG P1000+ PARA SA TSINELAS? OOF!
E TINGNAN MO NGA NAMAN KASI 'YUNG CONTOURS NYA. 'YUNG DESIGN... 'YUNG LAMBOT... AT APPEAL... ME' MALALIM NA GAMIT 'YAN...
'PAG BUMILI KA N'YAN E MAG-UUNAHAN MGA IPIS SA INYO PARA MAGPAPALO! PRIVILEGE SA KANILA 'YUN... RAKenROL!
ASTEEG!
WOW!
WAHOO!
Hoy PUMILA Ka!
YEA!

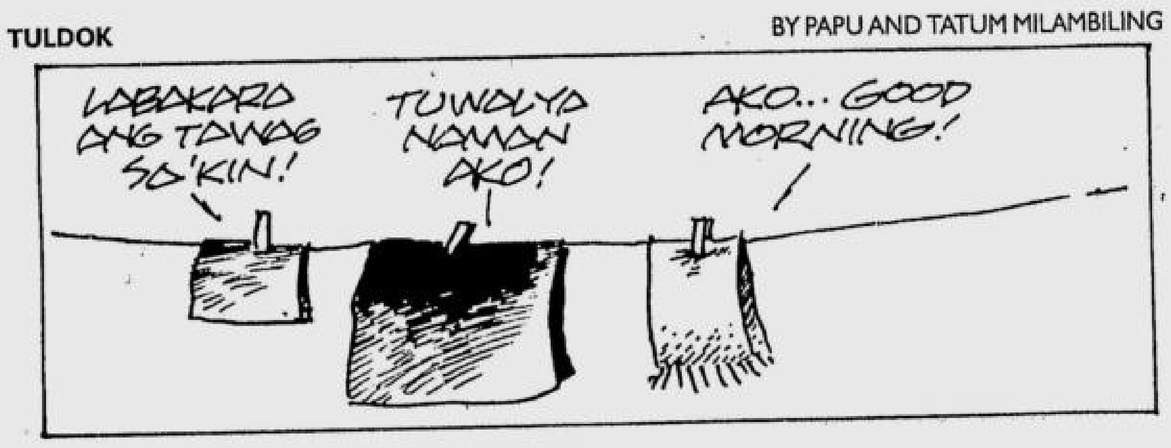
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NARITO PO TAYO UPANG SUBAYBAYAN ANG PAG-AKYAT NG KAUNA-UNAHANG PINOY SA MT. FOREVER REST...
MAY NATATANAW NA PO AKO!!! HELLO, MR. RIC!! HELLO!!! NAAKYAT NYO NA ANG TUKTOK NG MT. FOREVER REST!!! HELLO MR RIC!! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
E, SISTER BONI, AKO PO YUNG CAMERAMAN!! SI MR. RIC ANDUN PA PO SA IBABA!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


LABAKARO ANG TAWAG SA'KIN!
TUWALYA NAMAN AKO!
AKO... GOOD MORNING!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS Friday
ADVERTISEMENT
May 2006

Bonifacio Global City: Taking a business district to new heights

Bonifacio Global City will soon unveil a new master plan that will transform the emerging business district along C-5 into a city that truly works.

It will be a city where people can live, earn a living and at the same time find places for recreation. It will take a holistic approach to the needs of its residents by providing them all the necessities within walking distance through an efficient pedestrian system, according to Joel Luna, Ayala Land, Inc. assistant vice president in charge of Technical Planning. The pedestrian ways will be complemented by a transport system that will contribute in reducing the traffic jams and long commutes associated with today's business districts.

Perspective of parks along Garden Square in City Center

While the concept was novel at that time, experience shows that having a concentration of office space leads to a host of problems. These include peak-hour traffic queues to get into and out of the area at the morning and evening rush hours, skewed power demand at daytime and lack of nighttime activities. Moreover, after the office workers and visitors have left for home, the districts become ghost towns.

Luna explains that the vision for the new Bonifacio Global City is to allow those who live and work there a balance of activities. Wouldn't it be great if you could live, work and play in the same area? Can you imagine the kind of freedom that would mean? he adds.

Aerial photo of present City Center at Bonifacio Global City

Aside from innovative zoning, the city center master plan will set new standards for urban design. The previous plan focused on a large circular open space at the center of the city and a complementary circular road system that would lead to traffic bottlenecks.

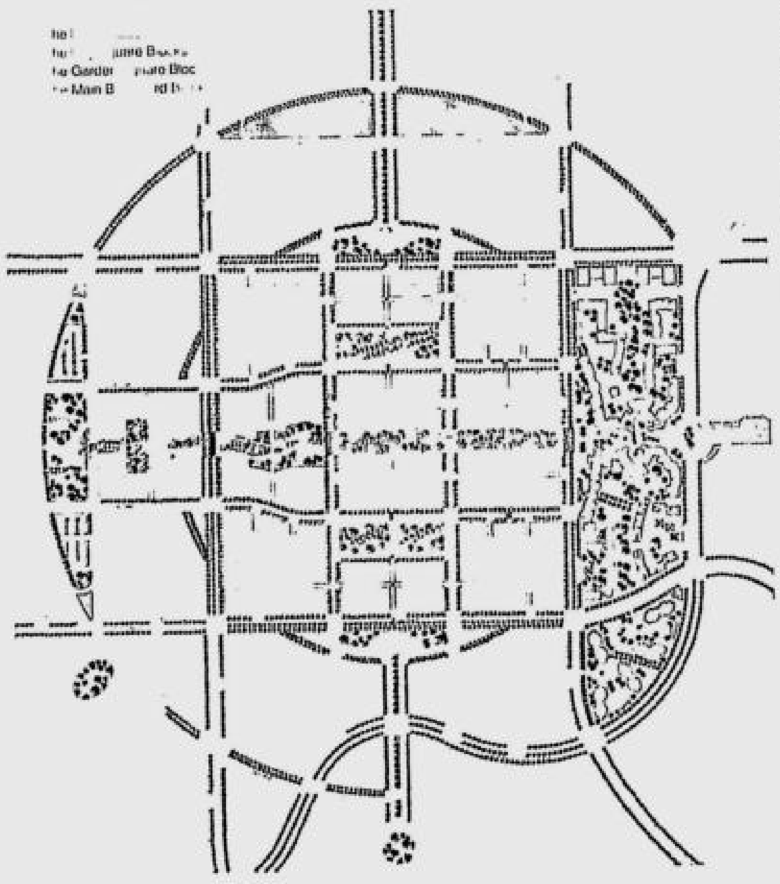
This design has been replaced by a grid of streets that promotes more efficient circulation and a pedestrian promenade that serves as focal point of the entire city. The promenade which stretches from east to west is basically a linear park approximately 500 meters long lined with shops and restaurants and offering special water features, colorful landscaping, plazas and public art. Observes Ayala Land, Inc. president Jaime I. Ayala: Think Greenbelt stretched out over a 500 meter corridor. Like Greenbelt, Bonifacio Global City's new city center will offer the same excitement and vibrance but a decidedly different look.

While the result is a significant loss of saleable land area on FBDC's balance sheet, observes Joselito Campos of Evergreen Holdings, Inc., the area's aesthetic appeal and circulatory efficiency will be significantly improved. We know the loss in fiscal revenue will be more than made up for by the new benchmarks Bonifacio Global City will set for design and functionality.

Within the city center will be other areas with predominant uses identified. These include: the Main Boulevard Blocks at the visual edge of the city center; the Garden Square Blocks and the City Square Blocks.

As the name implies, The Main Boulevard Blocks are bordered by wide roadways close to the transit center and are ideal for office use. The Garden Square Blocks are quieter areas with each oriented towards a green landscaped park. As such they are ideal for residences and supporting retail and office uses. Finally, The City Square Blocks are oriented for various community activities and are good locations for hotels, conference facilities, embassies, museums, entertainment and office venues. While each set of blocks may have a prescribed dominant use, they are all mixed-use in nature.

Moreover, the new master plan provides Bonifacio Global City with better links to Makati and other business districts through transportation systems that are still being finalized. The new mass transit systems complement the city's seven access points and its location between C-5 and EDSA.



Illustrative masterplan of BGC City Center

Luna reveals that a multi-disciplinary team comprised of Ayala Land,Inc. experts in planning, office development, commercial centers, and property management sat down to map out development in the area together with officers from the Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC) and Ayala Land, Inc.'s partners in FBDC, the Campos Group of Companies and the Bases Conversion Development Authority. The team also benefitted from the inputs of the best consultants in the fields of urban design, landscaping, transportation,

Perspective of City Square in City Center

Civil works on the infrastructure of the first phase commenced in January 2006. The development of the city, which will have the look and feel of a forward-looking cosmopolitan center, will be achieved in phases.

Adds Luna: Every master plan is unique. This one is tailor-fit to benefit the Philippines. It was carved out of the wealth of experience of its planners. It should allow Bonifacio Global City to join the ranks of other thriving cities in Southeast Asia.

For inquiries on Bonifacio Global City, please call 757-6116 or 818-3601 local 3103 / 3106. You may also email us at info@bonifacioglobalcity.com.ph or log on to www.bonifacioglobalcity.com.ph.

Artwork by Jaime Zobel

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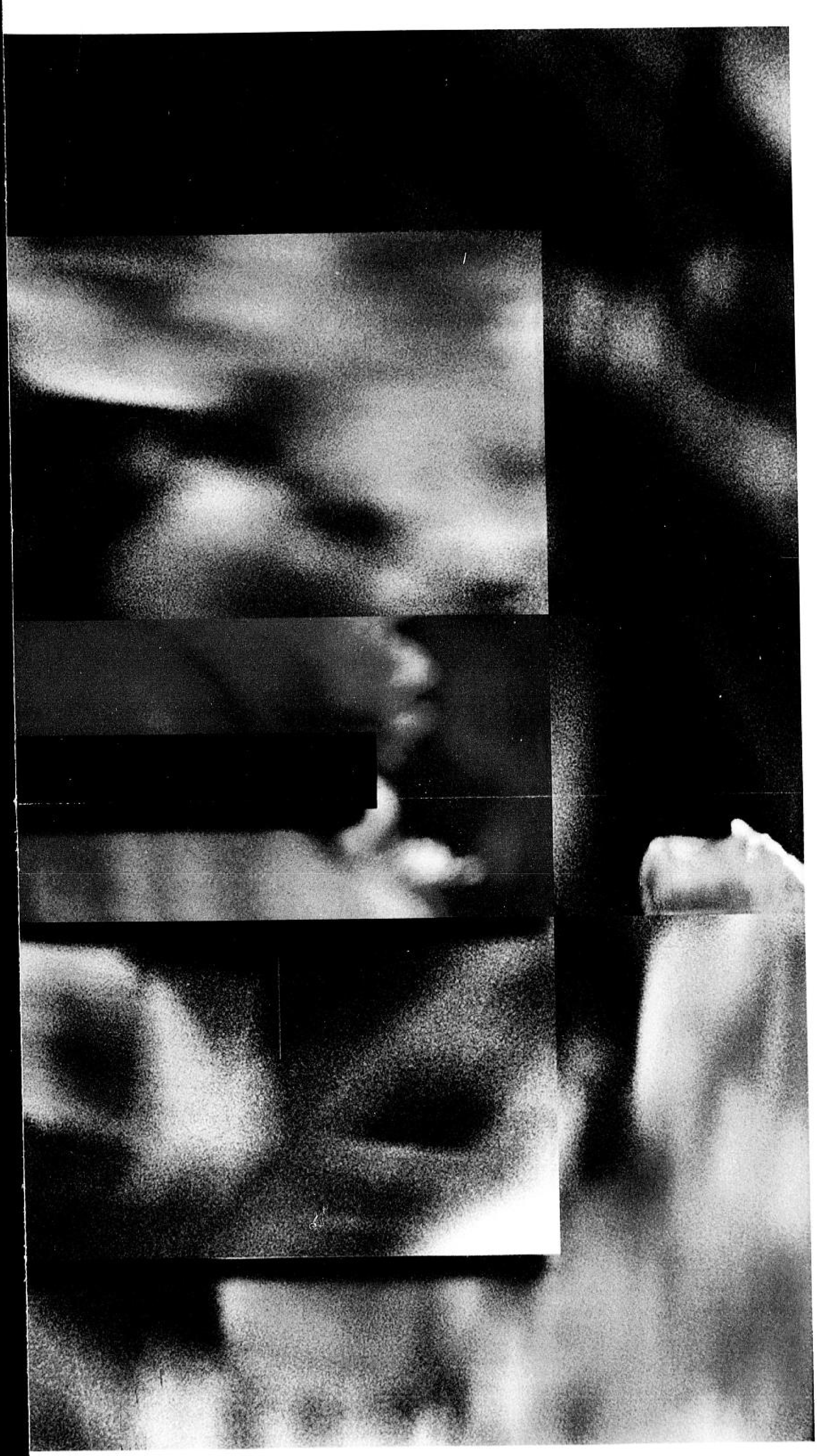
You may also email us at **info@bonifacioglobalcity.com.ph** or log on to **www.bonifacioglobalcity.com.ph**



Great ideas
are everywhere.
The passion
to pull them off –
that is rare.

Here's to the people who live, work and play with passion. Here's to the creators! Here's to companies that make today and shape tomorrow. Here's to innovation and invention. Here's to achieving and relaxing in equal measure. Here's to family. Here's to coming home.

Bonifacio Global City. A place to live, work, recreate . . . and create.

Bonifacio

where passion and rationality will find a mutual home

Soon, the evolving Bonifacio Global City will be heralded as the home of passionate minds.

It will be an environment that will allow passion for all the important things in life to be expressed and acknowledged along with a drive for excellence and efficiency associated with work. As such, people will be able to live, work, recreate . . . and create all in one place in this central business district of tomorrow.

For far too long, cities have been compartmentalizing people's lives by setting apart work places from the other areas where real living takes place homes, schools, parks, entertainment and civic places. The work place has been the domain of efficiency and rationality while creativity and passion have been relegated outside it to many other areas.

The Information Age dominated by the brisk flow of data and communications and logical and linear thinking has reinforced the distinct separation of work from one's real passions. Nevertheless, credible seers of the future predict a new society founded on the creative, inventive and conceptual as tools that can imbue greater meaning and purpose to life.

Following the Information Age and before it, the agricultural and industrial ages the Creative Age is set to rise. It will be a time when efficiency and aesthetics will not be mutually exclusive; when information will still be necessary but no longer sufficient; when the capacity to create beauty and meaning, which was once regarded as a frivolous pursuit, will determine success or failure.

Bonifacio Global City will be the city of the Creative Age. It will allow the fusion of passion and hard work by providing the infrastructure for it. Here, artistic monuments to creativity, landscaped greenery, promenades and open space that free the mind and the spirit will be laid out along with fibre-optic cabling networks and other infrastructure that offer 21st comfort and convenience.

Here, work, home and civic life will be able to merge seamlessly just like the spaces set aside for these activities. This integrated and wholistic environment will be where passionate minds can truly flourish.

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Work-life balance enhanced in Bonifacio Global City

Filipino executives, together with their Singaporean counterparts, are the most stressed among Asian executives, according to *Asian Wall Street Journal's* recent Managing in Asia survey. Stress levels for both groups are attributable to rising costs and the strong pressure to compete on price. according to the study.

As more families in the Asia-Pacific region experience the tension of having both parents working outside the home, stress levels are ever increasing. The struggles of executives to seek quality of life not only on the job but outside of the workplace as well have given rise to an expressed need for work-life balance. The survey discloses that as many as two-thirds of families have both parents working outside the home.

Work-life balance, however, requires more than simply granting employees more benefits or more time off to attend to their personal needs. Urban planning can also play a key role in helping executives achieve work-life balance, according to Jun Bisnar, Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation's head of commercial operations.

By providing the infrastructure and systems for a city where residents live, work and play in areas within walking distance of one another, a balance between career, family and personal life can be achieved. In fact, work-life balance for its residents is the overarching goal of the Bonifacio Global City masterplan which will be launched some time midyear.

We've picked up lessons from the experiences of other central business developments that are now fully built-up, he explains. Under the current set-up, business districts are devoted mostly to offices and some support commercial use. Because there are few residential areas near places of work, people arrive at about the same time in the morning and return home en masse in the late afternoon. These peak rush hours lead to massive gridlocks in urban centers. At the same time, power demand peaks during the day and wanes in the evenings when the districts become virtual "ghost towns".

By adapting a mixed-use approach, people will be able to live and work in the same place. It's a living, dynamic, 24/7 city that offers a variety of activities any given time of day. When work is a few minutes drive, or even a walk away from home, they are freed to spend more time with their families and can attend to personal concerns, discloses Bisnar.

Behind the master plan is multi-disciplinary team comprised of Ayala Land, Inc. experts in planning, office development, commercial centers, and property management who brainstormed for 18 months to map out development in the area together with officers from the Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC). They also drew from the experiences of Ayala Land Inc.'s partners in FBDC, the Campos Group of Companies and the Bases Conversion Development Authority. The Campos Group has various property developments in EDSA-Central and Laguna. Together, the partners lend Bonifacio Global City stability and a far-seeing vision of the future.

The team took into consideration not only present problems of existing business districts that led to the current work-life imbalance, but also requirements of the future global city such as an estimated 6,000 to 8,000 new families who are expected to establish residence there in the next 10 years. They will enjoy the benefits of a less stressful work environment, while taking pleasure in spending more quality time with their loved ones and more time for themselves, says Bisnar.

Bonifacio

The new logo of Bonifacio Global City will soon be seen in this evolving city's scenery.

Imbued with the spirit and vision of the city of the future, the logo evokes the dynamism and progressive nature of the development, as expressed in the overlapping lines that allude to modern contemporary art. This kinetic icon communicates the movement and fluidity of a mixed-use site, blurring boundaries between work, leisure. and personal spaces.

Moreover, the icon forms two basic yet significant elements. The circle represents the primary shape of the city's masterplan as well as completeness and convergence, a self-sustaining and growing hub for various activities. The square within the circle represents the city center and the sense of structure and stability within this ever-changing urban landscape.

The colors of the logo also evoke the city's contemporary and energetic spirit. The lime green and deep aquamarine hues define youthfulness and a vibrant environment, an expression of the city as a place of growth and refuge. The bright orange creates a striking contrast that captures the passion for creativity and new ideas.

In its entirety, the logo embodies the essence of a progressive city of the future a city steeped in possibilities and teeming with diversity a home for passionate minds.